PLUCK THE STARS, DONNA!

2

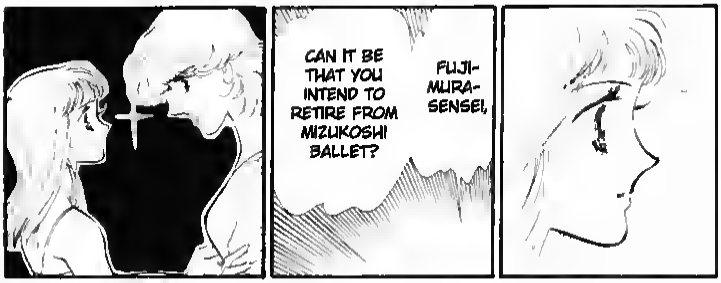
Story by Mizue Sawa / Art by Chiho Saito

This is why Kuroki-kun and I were so insistent about her...
Ah, this is why...

This girl has been so careless,
and her toes are surprisingly strong!
That outstretched pose is quite natural.
I didn't notice at all
She has balance
That she is the treasure that I've been waiting for.
CLAP CLAP
IKUKO-SENSEI..

THAT WAS WONDERFUL, MORIKAWA-SAN.
THE BALANCE, THE POSES, EVEN THE EX-PRES-SIONS!

AFTER THIS ..
I COULDN'T SEE YOU REALLY DANCE UNTIL THE END...
IT'S REALLY A PITY...


CAN IT BE THAT YOU INTEND TO RETIRE FROM MIZUKOSHI BALLET?
FUJI-MURA-SENSEI,

I..
I FELT EXCITEMENT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART WHEN I HEARD THE MUSIC OF "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN"
I WANT TO TRY DANCING THIS MUSIC.
I KNOW IT'S SHAMELESS OF ME TO SAY THIS, AFTER I'VE NEGLECTED MY RESPONSIBILITIES...
BUT I WANT TO AUDITION..
IS IT TOO LATE NOW!?
I REALLY CAN'T...
MORIKAWA-SAN,
THE AUDITION IS OVER.

I SEE.
YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU, MORIKAWA-SAN?
HA.. IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS LATE.
THIS TIME IS NO EXCEPTION.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

MS. FUJIMURA?
WHAT!? YOU WANT US TO TEST MORIKAWA KEIMI?
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
YES.
YES... IF I WERE A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY.
AS A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY, YOU KNOW THAT IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO RECAST ROLES ONCE THEY'VE BEEN SET, DON'T YOU?
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND WHEN IT COMES TO MORIKAWA KEIMI?
DON'T JOKE WITH US, IT'S TOO LATE!
BUT I HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO THE DIRECTOR.

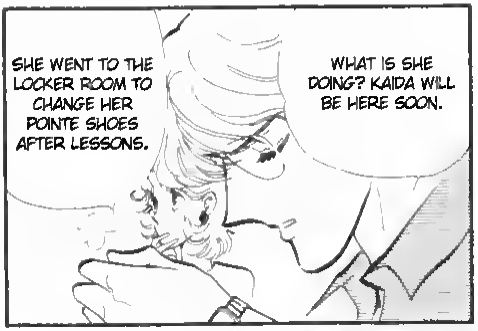
Ha Ha Ha ...
PLEASE, TEST MORIKAWA KEIMI!!
Ka. Kaida-san
I DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THOSE RULES ANYMORE. I'M AN OUTSIDER.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU THINK I'M CHALLENGING YOU.
.....
LET'S SETTLE THIS QUICKLY. IF IT WILL IMPROVE THE PRODUCTION, THEN LET'S DO IT.
I'M THE ONE JUDGING HER, SO NO RULES ARE BEING BROKEN, RIGHT?
DIRECTOR AKITA?
DON'T TELL ME...
TRUE... THIS IS YOUR PRODUCTION.
EXCUSE ME.
Heh.
YOUR HILARIOUS QUIBBLE HAS STIRRED UP MY INTEREST IN MORIKAWA KEIMI.

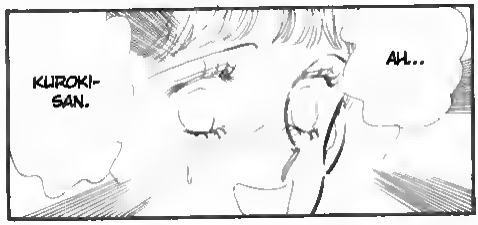
MAY I OFFER YOU A RIDE TO THE STATION?
OKAY. LET'S MAKE AN EXCEPTION AND TEST MORIKAWA KEIMI!
EVEN AFTER TWENTY YEARS YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED
STUBBORN AS EVER.
Hu
I PREFER TO WALK WHEN I CAN.
... THANKS FOR YOUR HELP EARLIER, BUT I DON'T NEED A RIDE.
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN YOU MOVED TO GERMANY FOR A MEDIOCRE MARRIAGE.
AND YOU ARE AS PUSHY AS EVER.
THAT WAS THE REASON WE BROKE UP BACK THEN.
YOU ARE ONE TO TALK... YOU BECAME THE LOVER OF KUROKI NORIKO-SAN, THE LEADING CHARACTER DANCER...

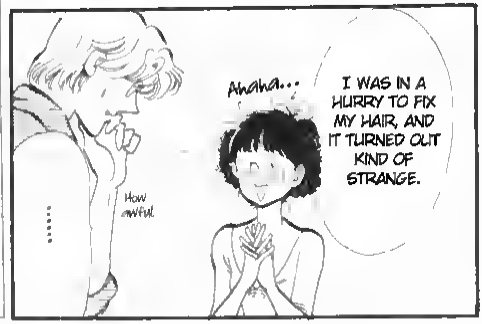
LIKE MY NEXT MEETING WITH MORIKAWA KEIMI..
NO USE TALKING ABOUT THE PAST.
BETTER TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
AND YOU HAD A SON.
KUROKI-KUN.
They are holding a special audition for Morikawa Keimi?
I'M SURE THAT EVEN YOU, WHO DIDN'T APPRECIATE MY DANCING TWENTY YEARS AGO, WILL APPRECIATE HERS.
Let's Go!
VROOOM

IF KAIDA LIKES HER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE PERSON THAT WAS CHOSEN FIRST?
WHY GO THAT FAR? BECAUSE SHE'S MORIKAWA CHIHARU'S SISTER?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? THE CAST HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
SHE'S SURE TO BE DROPPED.
IT'S SAID KAIDA WILL TEST HER IN PERSON.
OH MY...
My hair is all messed up..
sigh
An audition just for me...
squeak

わたしの好きなバレエダンサー







HUH? IT'S OK, I CAN'T...
COME WITH ME TO THE MAKE-UP ROOM.
WAIT.
I'M GOING. I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.
comb comb
Wow, he is agile...
KUROKI-SAN, ARE YOU A HAIR-DRESSER TOO?
EVERY-THING ABOVE THE NECK IS PART OF MY JOB.
THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
Guy
YOU HAVE TO MIND YOUR AP-PEARANCE. NOT ONLY FOR OTHER PEOPLE,
BUT FOR YOUR-SELF.
TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOU.

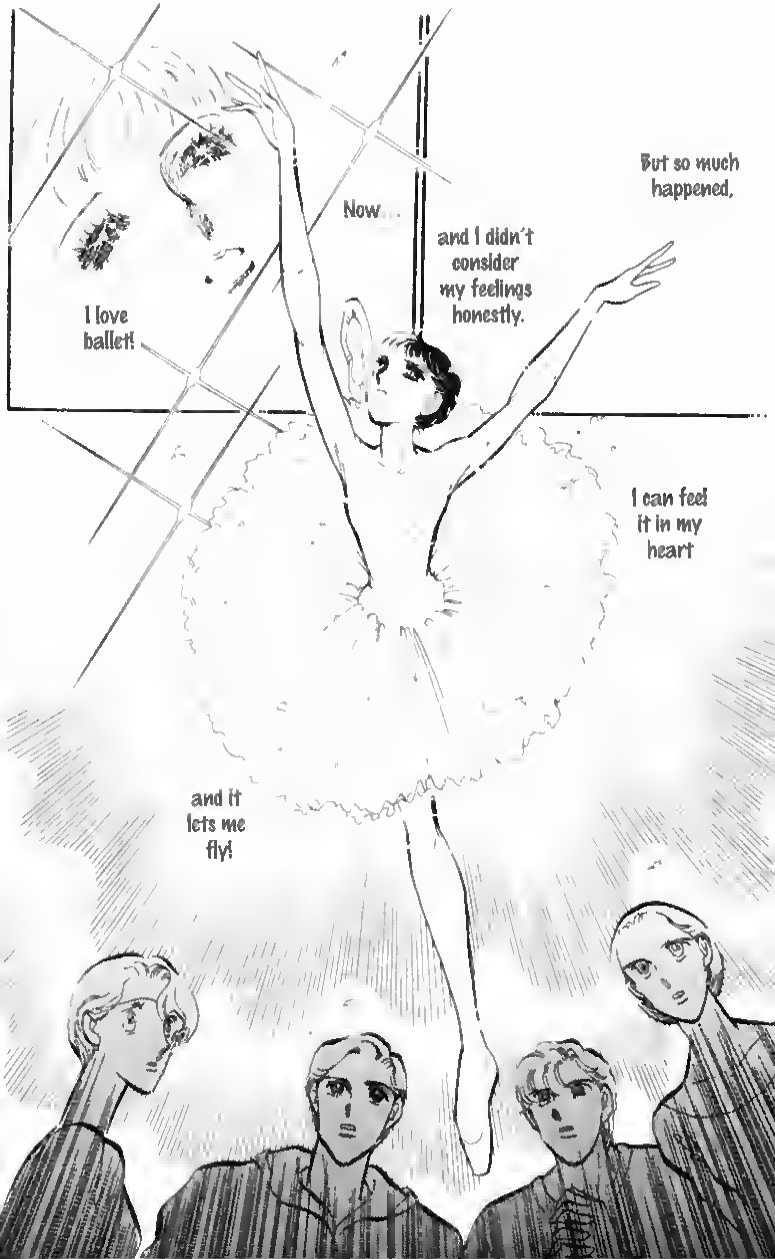
BETTER APPLY A BIT OF MAKE-UP TOO.
clack
THE FIRST TIME I HAVE PUT MAKE-UP ON YOU.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME.
HUH?
Y...YES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T DANCE SKILFULLY, AS LONG AS YOU PUT YOUR HEART ON IT. THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE AUDITION.

WHAT IS IT? SCARED?
CLATTER
THEN LET'S BEGIN, AT LAST. THE SPECIAL AUDITION.
..I NEED TO USE THE RESTROOM.
HURRY UP.
LOOK.
Ah.
SHE IS BACK.

STARE
IT'S USELESS ANYWAY, RIGHT?
yawn
THE THEME IS "VARIATION OF THE PIRATES."
chatter
chatter
Everyone is . . .
staring at me
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
With this, it will be decided. If it doesn't turn out well, my career as a teacher will be over not only with Mizukoshi Ballet, but the whole Japanese ballet world...
My future is in your hands, Morikawa-san!

"Look at yourself in the mirror"
SLAM
Ah... Kuroki-san.
tremble
BEGIN.
TINK TINK
Myself...
That's right. I don't need to dance skilfully...
I need to put my heart in it.

Naturally...
Feeling...
the music...
I started doing ballet when I was eight years old.
The truth is it's possible that I really liked it


I love ballet!
Now...
and I didn't consider my feelings honestly.
But so much happened,
I can feel it in my heart
and it lets me fly!

Done... Such a pleasant feeling!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
silence
huff
huff
huff
KAIDA-SAN?
I WAS AS-TONISHED!
DEAR ME! THAT WAS...
MORI-KAWA KEIMI, RIGHT?
NOT PERFECT, BUT SHE REALLY HAS POTENTIAL!
stand

I WILL INCLUDE YOU IN THE CAST OF MY NEW PRODUCTION OF "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN.".
Huh?
T... This one?
TAKE OFF THAT CLASSIC TUTU.
Oh!
chatter chatter
Me... I...
It. It can't be!
KUROKI-SAN!
chatter
chatter

I feel so relieved. We came to the disco to celebrate

What happened before...
I was thinking about what to do if we have another of those awkward moments...
BUT DON'T LOWER YOUR GUARD.
Tatsu-kun?
Thank goodness...
Tatsu-kun doesn't seem to mind.
IF YOU DON'T LIVE UP TO KAIDA'S EXPECTATIONS, HE CAN DISMISS YOU IMMEDIATELY.
THAT'S TRUE.
Dismissed...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SELECTED TOO,
I NEVER KNOW WHEN I MIGHT BE DISMISSED.

SILLY, DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
GO ON.
LET'S DANCE, KEIMI.
THAT COULPLE IS AMAZING.
COULD THEY BE PROFES-SIONAL DANCERS?
Here it comes!
KEIMI...
.....
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE...

I'M SORRY.
AT THAT MOMENT I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS...
NEVER MIND!
I ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
SO DON'T WORRY AT ALL.
I SEE...
Don't worry at all?
Those are very lonely words, aren't they?
Will it be always like this, Kemi?
.....

Yoshi wo Tsuna Donna

Volume 2 Chapter 4

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Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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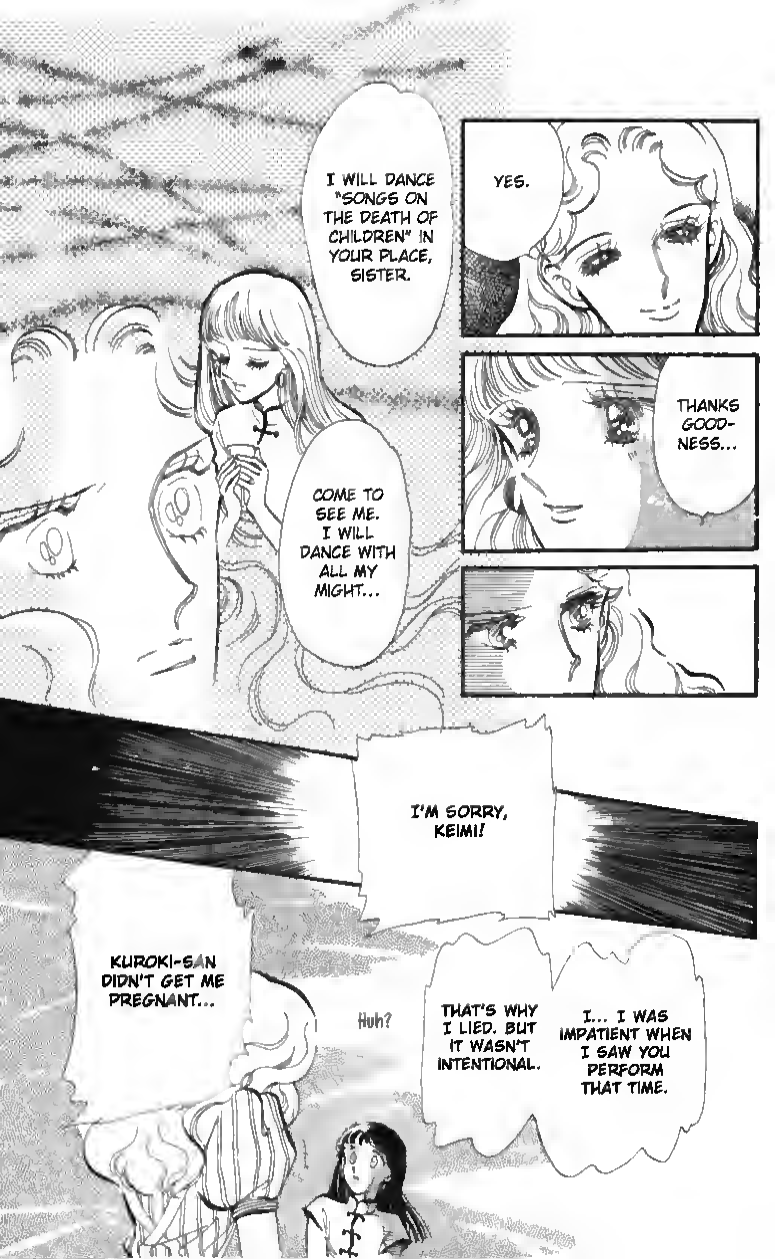
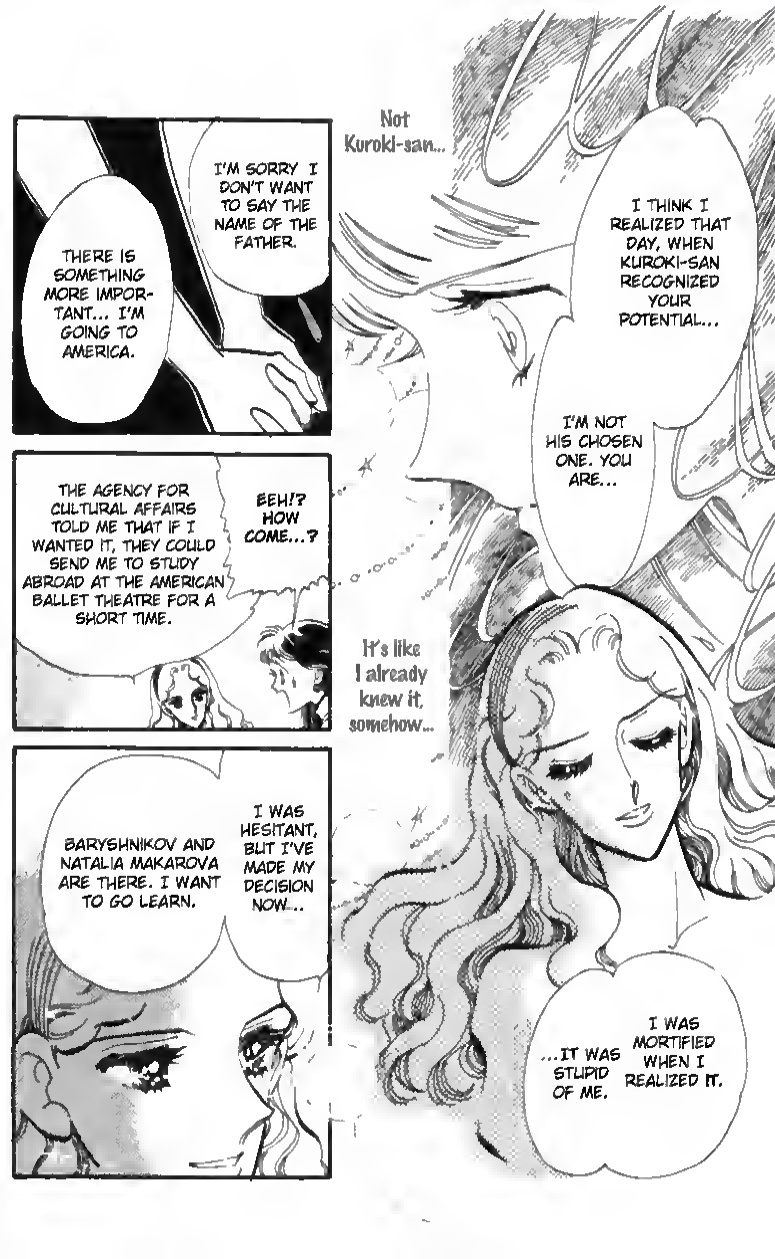
The Barcardle Team

Sigh
Will it always be this awkward between me and Tatsu-kun?
Can't we go back to the way we used to be?
Tatsu-kun...
OPEN
SISTER?

CON-GRATULA-TIONS.
WELCOME BACK, KEIMI
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO COME HOME AND CEL-EBRATE,
BUT YOU'RE LATE
LET'S EAT TOGETHER
I DIDN'T EAT IT YET.
I'M SORRY I'M LATE
IT'S OKAY. LOOK, I EVEN OPENED A BOTTLE OF WINE.
SISTER, IS YOUR BODY OKAY NOW?


I WILL DANCE "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN" IN YOUR PLACE, SISTER.
COME TO SEE ME. I WILL DANCE WITH ALL MY MIGHT...
YES.
THANKS GOOD-NESS...
I'M SORRY, KEIMI!
KUROKI-SAN DIDN'T GET ME PREGNANT...
Huh?
THAT'S WHY I LIED. BUT IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL.
I... I WAS IMPATIENT WHEN I SAW YOU PERFORM THAT TIME.


I'M SORRY I DON'T WANT TO SAY THE NAME OF THE FATHER.
THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT... I'M GOING TO AMERICA.
Not Kuroki-san...
I THINK I REALIZED THAT DAY, WHEN KUROKI-SAN RECOGNIZED YOUR POTENTIAL...
I'M NOT HIS CHOSEN ONE. YOU ARE...
EEH!? HOW COME...?
THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS TOLD ME THAT IF I WANTED IT, THEY COULD SEND ME TO STUDY ABROAD AT THE AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE FOR A SHORT TIME.
It's like I already knew it, somehow...
I WAS HESITANT, BUT I'VE MADE MY DECISION NOW...
BARYSHNIKOV AND NATALIA MAKAROVA ARE THERE. I WANT TO GO LEARN.
I WAS MORTIFIED WHEN I REALIZED IT.
...IT WAS STUPID OF ME.

My sister always decides everything on her own... She is so independent...
HEY, KEIMI, YOU HAVE HARDLY EATEN WHAT'S IT?
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ME THE WHOLE TIME.
YOU WERE TALKING SO MUCH.
I WAS AT A LOSS.
If I can see her smile...
THAT'S TRUE.
I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
Gigyle
CHIHARU-SAN!
Even if we are going to be separated, we should try our best to improve.

OPEN
HA HA HA
WE HAVE TO DO OUR WORK TOO.
I CAME TO MY LAST LESSON TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE TEACHERS AND TO ALL OF YOU.
YES.
EH? AREN'T YOU LEAVING FOR AMERICA TODAY?
THAT'S GREAT! YOU ATTENDED LESSONS TILL THE VERY END.
GOOD MOR..
GOOD MORNING, NISHINA-SAN
TAP TAP TAP

IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME?
YOU'RE GOING TO AMERICA?
YES.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

HEY, IS IT TRUE THEN?
ABOUT SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN NISHINA-SAN AND CHIHARU-SAN?
TAP
HER MOVEMENTS ARE AS GOOD AS ALWAYS. SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A BREAK FROM HER LESSONS.
I WONDER IF THAT'S ALL THE RESULT OF DAILY PRACTICE.
AH, THAT RUMOUR.
THAT SHE'S PREGNANT.
Glare
SHOCK
How scary!

TWIRL
Ah!
"Keep going"!

SO BEAUTI-FUL!
THEY MAKE A GOOD COMBINA-TION.
PAN AM
WHOOSH

From now on...
YES, SHE IS GONE.
CHIHARU-SAN FINALLY LEFT.
PAT
KEIMI!
YES.
SHALL WE GO?
SSH
I will be alone...
Everything started when I was on stage for the first time.
WHETHER YOU WISH IT OR NOT, YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL! PROFESSIONALS DON'T FOOL AROUND.
YES.
YOU WON'T JUST BE A STUDENT ANYMORE, YOU'RE STEPPING INTO THE WORLD OF PROFESSIONALS.
THE HARD WORK STARTS TOMORROW.

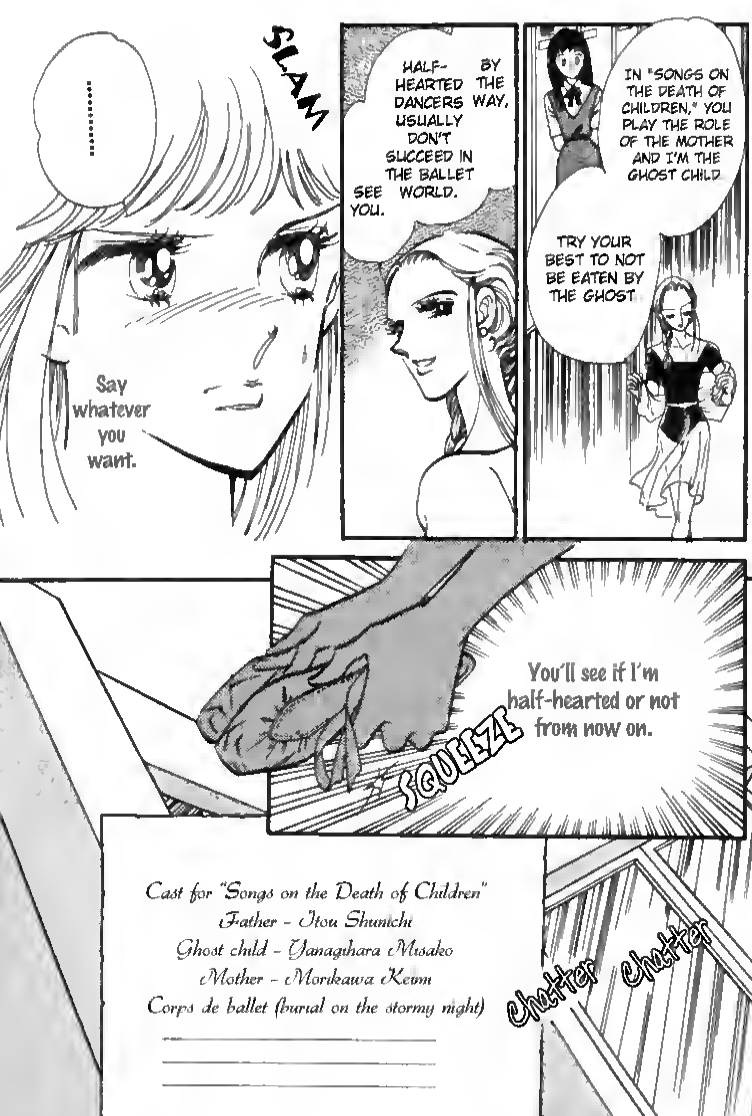
STARE
GOOD MORNING!
And today... I will start over again.
...?
Yes
HEY, IF WE DON'T HURRY UP WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.
AH, EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO PASS.
YOU TOO, COME HERE.
SLAM
Ah, excuse me.
BUMP
BUMP

Ah?
OPEN
How rude, I greeted them politely...
My pointe shoes...
...are torn!!

Are these cuts?
How terrible...
Who did this?
STAB
My pointe shoes are torn to pieces...
SHAKE
OPEN
GOOD MORNING.

She competed with my sister to be the Mizukoshi Ballet prima donna.
YANAGIHARA-SAN?
IT'S NOT SURPRISING.
FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS SELECTED FOR THE ROLE OF JULIET,
I FOUND SHARDS OF GLASS INSIDE MY POINTE SHOES.
THUD
IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO THE HEROINE OF A SHOUJO MANGA,
BUT IT HAPPENS IN REAL LIFE TOO...

WE SPEND ALL OUR TIME PRACTICING SINCE WE ARE CHILDREN FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS. EVERY DAY WE MAKE GREAT EFFORT TO TRAIN AND IMPROVE OUR BODIES.
NOWADAYS EVERY FIELD IS GETTING SIMPLER, BUT BALLET IS DIFFERENT.
BUT I DON'T UNDER STAND THERE'S NO SENSE IN IT.
HA
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND.
YOU MANAGED TO SNATCH THAT ROLE AWAY BY BREAKING THE RULES.
BUT ONLY ONE PERSON CAN GET THE LEADING ROLE.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO WIN EVERY-BODY'S SCORN?
BUT MORE THAN THAT, YOU DON'T SEEM TO PUT IN ANY EFFORT, AND YOU'RE HALF-HEARTED WHEN IT COMES TO BALLET.
I DON'T APPROVE OF YOU EITHER.


SLAM
.....
Say whatever you want.
BY THE WAY, HALF-HEARTED DANCERS USUALLY DON'T SUCCEED IN THE BALLET WORLD.
SEE YOU.
IN "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN," YOU PLAY THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER AND I'M THE GHOST CHILD.
TRY YOUR BEST TO NOT BE EATEN BY THE GHOST.
You'll see if I'm half-hearted or not from now on.
SQUEEZE
Cast for "Songs on the Death of Children"
Father - Otou Shunichi
Ghost child - Yanagihara Misako
Mother - Morikawa Keiko
Corps de ballet (burial on the stormy night)
Chatter Chatter

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICES LED BY KAIDA-SENSEI, ISN'T IT?
KAIDA'S PRACTICES ARE FAMOUS FOR BEING TERRIBLE.
MOREOVER, NOW WE SUDDENLY HAVE A NEWCOMER
OH. THAT GIRL.
HER POINTE SHOES ARE TORN...
WHAT A SHAME-LESS GIRL.
IN THAT CASE, YOU DON'T NEED TO COME.. DON'T YOU THINK?
Fifth position
Demi plie...
Will I be able to rise?
My stomach hurts.

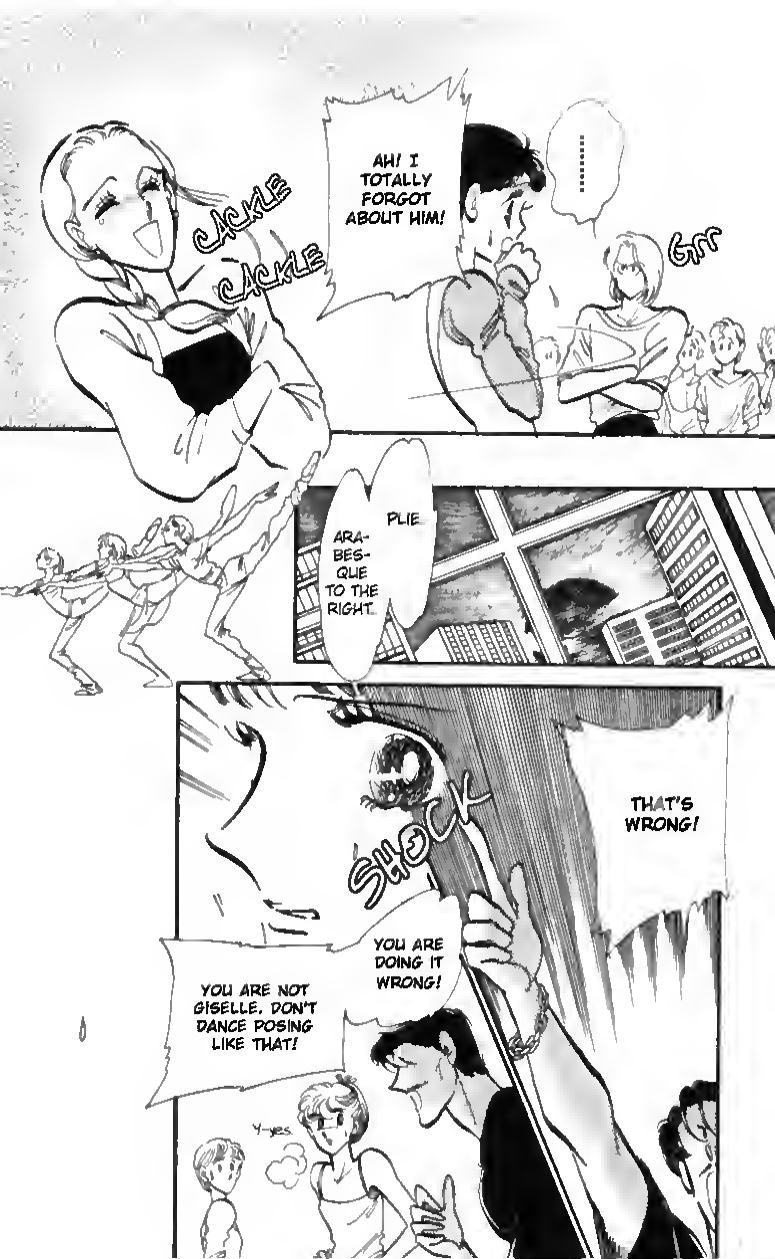
I leave it to you.
OPEN
Here he comes!!
Everybody ignores me.
They look at me out of the corner of their eyes.
As if they're trying to catch me in a mistake.
DON'T WORRY, YOU WILL MASTER THE CHOREOGRAPHY IN YOUR OWN WAY.
Y...YES.
MORIKAWA-SAN, FIRST, DON'T LOOK AS IF WE ARE GOING TO EAT YOU.
"SONG ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN" GROUP, LET'S START PRACTICE!
CLAP

So she says...
But it's my first performance in front of them...
HUH?
MORI-KAWA-KUN!
-KUN ...
MUSIC!
DANCE THE FIRST PAS DE DEUX WITH ITOU-KUN.
Eh? Right now?
WHAT IS IT? CAN'T YOU MOVE YOUR FEET?
.....

I FORGOT... THE STEPS...
Giggle
Snicker
DO YOU THINK I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO DO IT?
NOTHING WILL COME OF IT! YOU SHOULD HAVE RESOLVED THAT PROBLEM BEFORE COMING TO PRACTICE.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, LEAVE NOW!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? THE EXIT IS RIGHT THERE.
YES
Huh?
SWISH

I remember now.
First the chasse,
attitude, croise, devante and then...

But once you start moving, the steps your body remembers flow unconsciously.
That's it.
Sometimes before dancing you forget everything.
That's what a true dancer is.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARTNER?
.....
MORIKAWA-KUN, IT'S OKAY THAT YOU IMMERSE YOURSELF IN DANCING...


CACKLE
CACKLE
AH! I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT HIM!
.....
GRR
PLIE
ARA-BES-QUE TO THE RIGHT.
SHOCK
THAT'S WRONG!
YOU ARE DOING IT WRONG!
YOU ARE NOT GISELLE. DON'T DANCE POSING LIKE THAT!
YES

LISTEN! THIS PART OF THE DANCE IS A BURIAL ON A STORMY DAY.
THE CONCEPT IS THE FEELING OF DEATH TAKING AWAY SOMEONE DEAR TO YOU, FOREVER.
BUT YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE FEELINGS!
YOU ARE MERE OBJECTS.
MOTHER NATURE AND A CRUEL DESTINY HAVE NO CONCERN FOR HUMANS
I'M FED UP WITH THIS.
SOME-ONE ELSE WILL REPLA-CE YOU!
GO OUT! YOU ARE AN EYESORE.
SE... SENSEI!
SNIFF
TAP TAP TAP
IN AN INTERVIEW KAIDA SAID
WATCHING DANCERS BRINGS OUT HIS SADISTIC SIDE.
JUST WATCHING IS BORING FOR HIM.
IT HAS STARTED KAIDA'S BAD TEMPER.

Kaida-sensei is scary...
TO MAKE REAL THE THINGS YOU WISH FOR.
YOUR EMOTIONS AS A DANCER ARE VERY IMPORTANT.
THEY MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH PERFECTION.
What Kuroka-san's mother said is true.
YANAGIHARA AND ITOU, YOU ARE NEXT!
YES
♫ We would gladly stay with you! Now that is denied to us by Fate. Look at us, soon we will be far away!
♫ What are only eyes to you in these dark in the coming night sh be your stars.
Parents who lost their children...

Am I... the mother?
MORIKAWA!
WRONG!
How can he say something like that...?
THE IMAGE IS RUINED.
IS THAT A MOTHER CRYING FOR HER CHILDREN? ISN'T THAT JUST CLOWNING?

I DON'T KNOW HOW WELL SHE CAN DANCE, BUT ISN'T THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER RIGHT NOW?
HERE WE GO AGAIN. HOW MANY TIMES WILL YOU MAKE ME SAY IT!?
Sigh
OUCH!
THE PELVIS IS FACING THAT WAY! WE ARE NOT PRACTICING BASICS!
SLAP
I AGREE WITH YOU.
WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS TEAM TO BE DISRUPTED BY HER.
Don't cling to me!
Stretch a little bit more.
ITOU, YOU ARE HER PARTNER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS GOING TO TURN INTO A SCHOOL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN...
It's hard...

Can I dance...
...as my role demands?
THE MOTHER IS A BIG ROLE.
Gasp!
THROB
And Tatsu-kun...
What about him?
Kuroki-san is caught up in the stage prepara-tions.
Ikuko-sensei only comes for a group practices and is so busy with lessons.
PUT AN END TO THIS.
HEY, FUJIMURA TATSURU!

YOU KEEP CHASING AFTER ME. I DON'T NEED A SHADOW.
DANCE ON YOUR OWN!
Grab
STOP COMPARING WITH ME. I'M TIRED OF IT.
IT'S NOT REALLY AN ISSUE. WHAT GOOD IS THIS WHEN THERE IS ONLY ONE DAY LEFT.
PLEASE, ONE MORE TIME.

.....
HA HA HA
THOUGH IT WILL BE AN INTERESTING PERFORMANCE IF ALL YOU DO IS BE A SHADOW.

TAP TAP TAP
.....

.....
Tatsu-kun...
DAMN IT!
CRASH
It's the first time I've seen him like this...
MORIKAWA!
SLAP

Wha...
I WAS NOT DOZING. I JUST GOT A BIT DISTRACTED.
YOU HAVE GUTS, DOZING IN THE MIDDLE OF PRACTICE.
Hmph!
HOW RECKLESS OF SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A BALLERINA. YOU SEEM MORE LIKE A GRADE SCHOOL STUDENT, MORIKAWA.
HU
WERE YOU DREAMING OF WEARING RIBBONS AND A TUTU?
Kaida is going too far... I'm fed up!!
BLUSH
IT'S OK TO TRY TO LOOK GOOD WHEN DANCING.
I'M NOT GOING TO DANCE ANYMORE!
ARE YOU GOING TO DANCE BARE-FOOT?
SLAP

SHOVE
How could she !
Blah Blah
I'M BACK, LAND-LADY
OH, MORIKAWA-SAN ..
I m so stupid! Maybe I really can't dance anymore. I was so rude to the world-famous Kaida...

Yoshi wo Tsuna Donna
Volume 2 Chapter 2
Translated by Otohime
Proofread by Maris
Cleaned by JC
Edited by Nikkou
Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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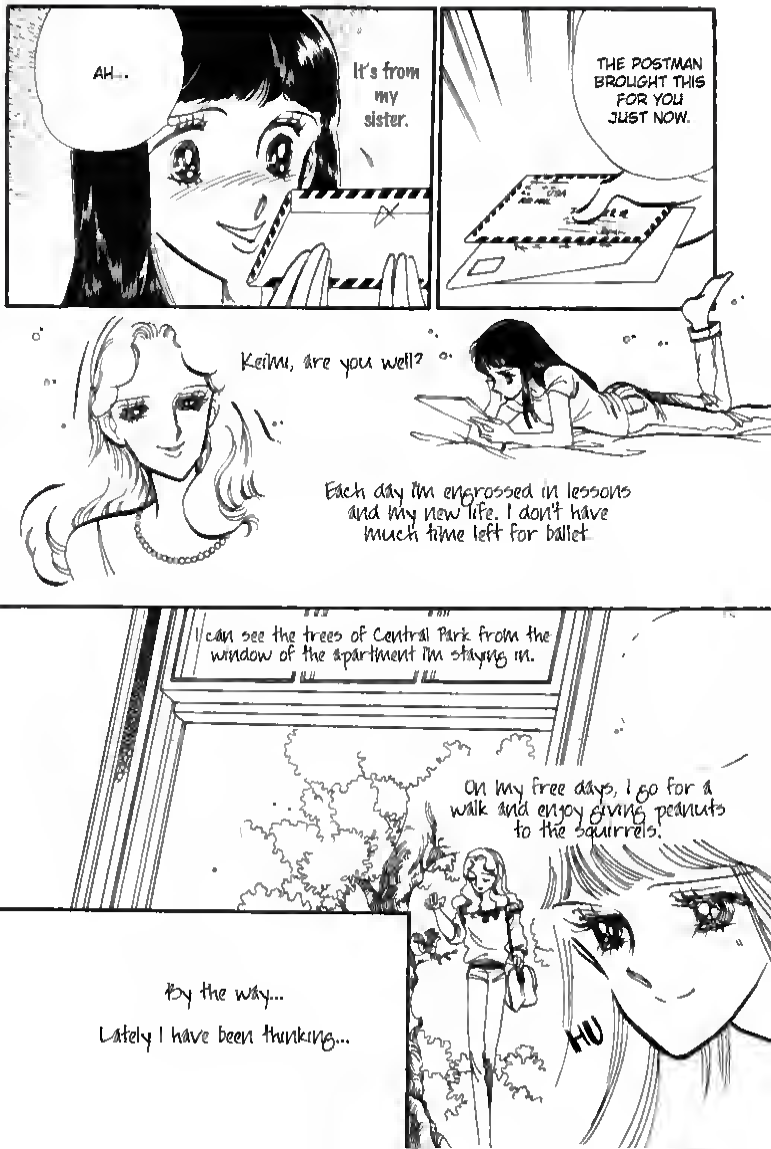

AH...
It's from my sister.
THE POSTMAN BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU JUST NOW.
Keiko, are you well?
Each day I'm engrossed in lessons and my new life. I don't have much time left for ballet.
I can see the trees of Central Park from the window of the apartment I'm staying in.
On my free days, I go for a walk and enjoy giving peanuts to the squirrels.
By the way...
Lately I have been thinking...
HU

Ballet is not about the dancing experience but the creativity.

You are still young, so maybe Kada's "Song on the Death of Children" is difficult for you. But although you are young, I want you to show how you can dance with your creative power and spirit. (You don't usually show these two qualities, but I'm convinced you possess them.)

Last, but not least, I met my admired Misha!! (That's Baryshnikov's nickname, of course!) My objective now is to be able to dance a pas de deux with him someday. I'm looking forward to it!

Hugs,

Chiharu

SENSEI, I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THOSE CLOTHES?
Creak
I'M A MOTHER WHO CRIES FOR HER CHILDREN

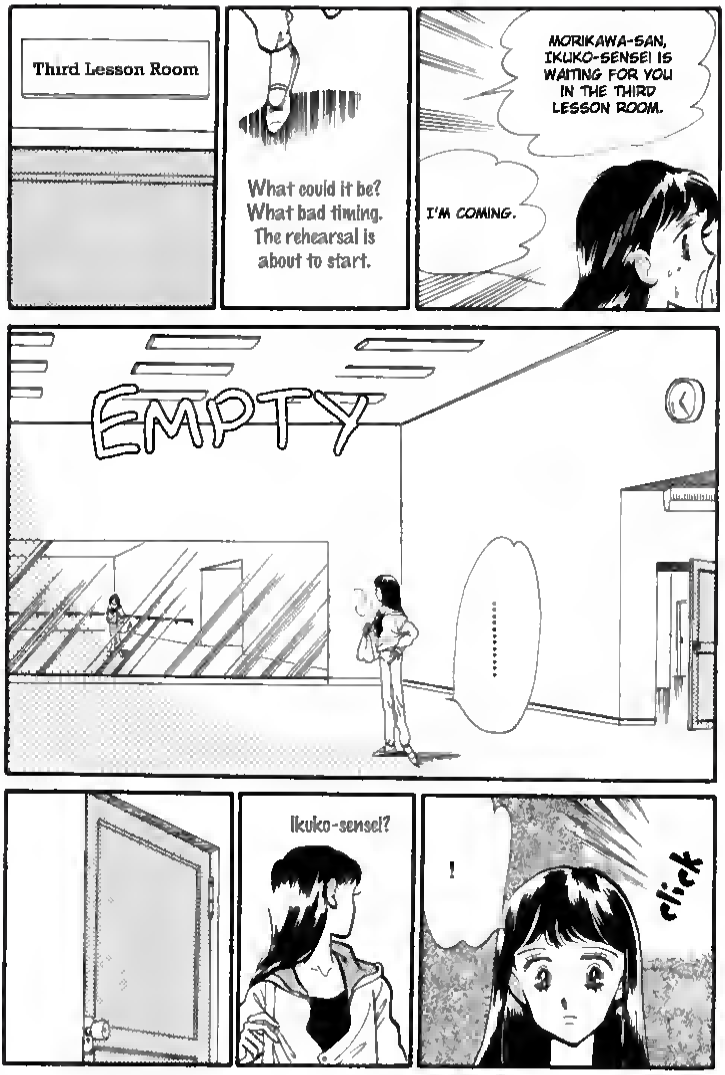
LET'S SEE IF SHE HAS GRASPED THE TRUE ESSENCE
JUST CHANGING THE APPEARANCE DOES NOTHING.
DON'T YOU AGREE, ITOU?
LET'S BEGIN.
STUMBLE
Ah!
Eh...
Right now...
Again...?!

Is he shifting our balance on purpose?
Why?
SHE IS TOO YOUNG.
THE POSES ARE NOT CORRECTLY FORMED.
SHE IS UNSTEADY, ISN'T SHE?
MORIKAWA, DON'T STUMBLE!!
I can't do these poses alone. This is not a pas de deux.
I have no chance if I dance like this.

That's it.
I get it!
No matter the excuse,
it's bad to stumble,
right?
CLENCH
I can't count on support
or anything...
I will do it on
my own!!
!

OKAY, NEXT PART!
AMAZ-ING..
SHE IS STANDING STILL WITHOUT SUPPORT..
HOW STRONG ..
GENERAL REHE-ARSAL
IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
WE NEED A LITTLE MORE LIGHT.

AH! AT LAST, THE COSTUME REHEARSAL!
WE CAN TAKE IT EASY NOW
EH? WE CAN'T LOWER OUR GUARD YET.
I HAVE HEARD THAT KAIDA-SENSEI THROWS OUT PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE LATE TO THE COSTUME REHEARSAL
KAIDA-SENSEI HATES PEOPLE WHO ARE LATE.
Oh, I see. When Tatsu-kun and I first met Kaida-sensei, he arrived at the hotel precisely on time.
GO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!
BLAH
BLAH
.....
I'm getting nervous remembering what happened last time.
I should go to the restroom..
LAVATORY
CREAK
Splash
Splash


Third Lesson Room
What could it be? What bad timing. The rehearsal is about to start.
MORIKAWA-SAN, IKUKO-SENSEI IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE THIRD LESSON ROOM.
I'M COMING.
EMPTY
.....
Ikuko-sensei?
!
click

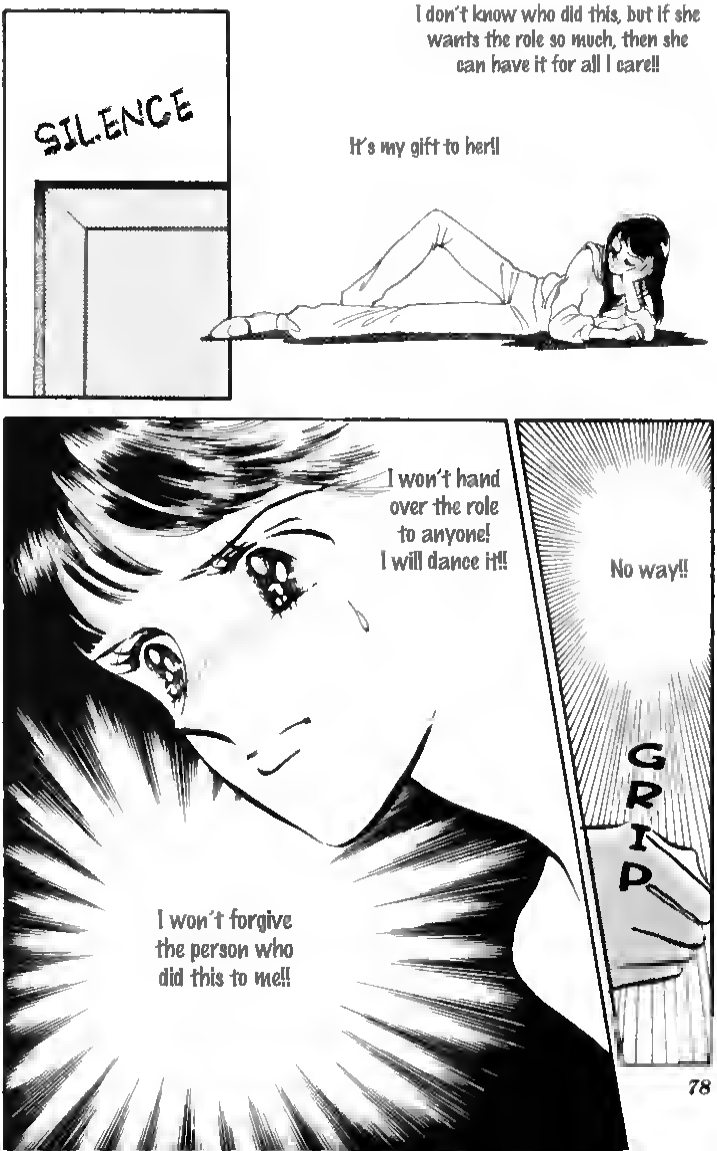
Was it the wind?
GRICK
Am I locked in!?
TICK
TOCK
TICK
!
CLICK
CLACK
This lock needs a key!!
TOCK
IS ANYONE OUT THERE!?
SBAM
SBAM

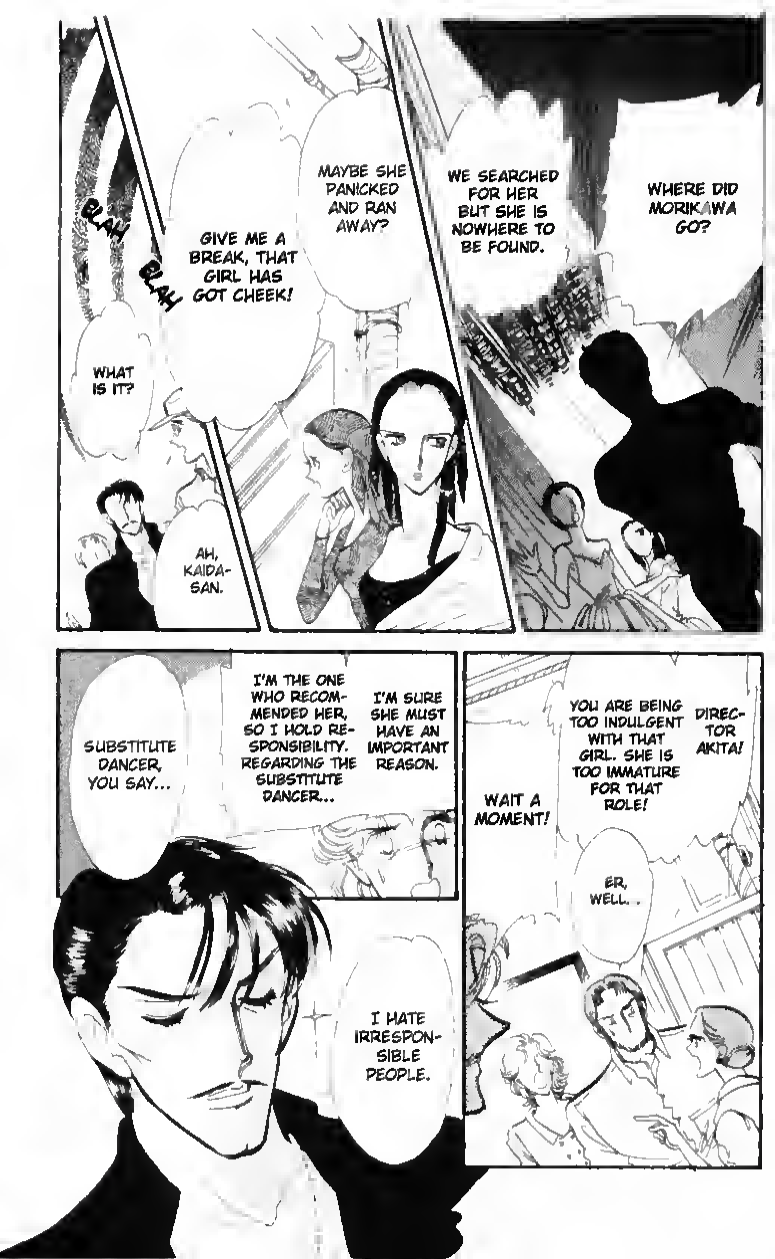
OPEN UP, PLEASE!
Dash
EVERYONE IS AIMING FOR THAT ROLE.
I'M LOCKED UP HERE, OPEN UP, PLEASE!!
This is harassment!!
SBAM
SBAM
PLEASE, OPEN THE DOOR!

TATSU-
KUN!!
SILENCE
KICK
.....

WE ARE LIGHTING A GROUP OF DANCERS DRESSED IN BLACK CLOTHES...
IS THIS LIGHT OKAY?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S ORIGINAL BECAUSE FROM THIS ANGLE, THE LIGHT WILL SHINE DIRECTLY ON THE DANCERS' FACES, RIGHT?
MAKE-UP IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THIS VISION.
I WANT IT AS NEAR TO THE STAGE AS AESTHETIC VISION ALLOWS
IT'S OKAY LIKE THAT.
INDEED.
IF I SAY IT'S GOOD, IT'S GOOD!!
They sure are father and son...
THE HIGH-LIGHTS ARE TOO INTENSE

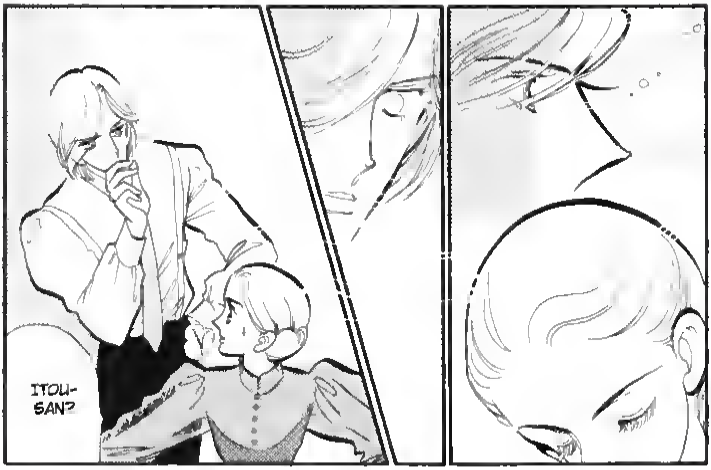
EH?
WHISPER
IKUKO-SENSEI
JUST A MOMENT.
TUG
Morikawa Keimi is nowhere to be found?
Hmph, who did this to me!?
HUFF
SBAM
SBAM

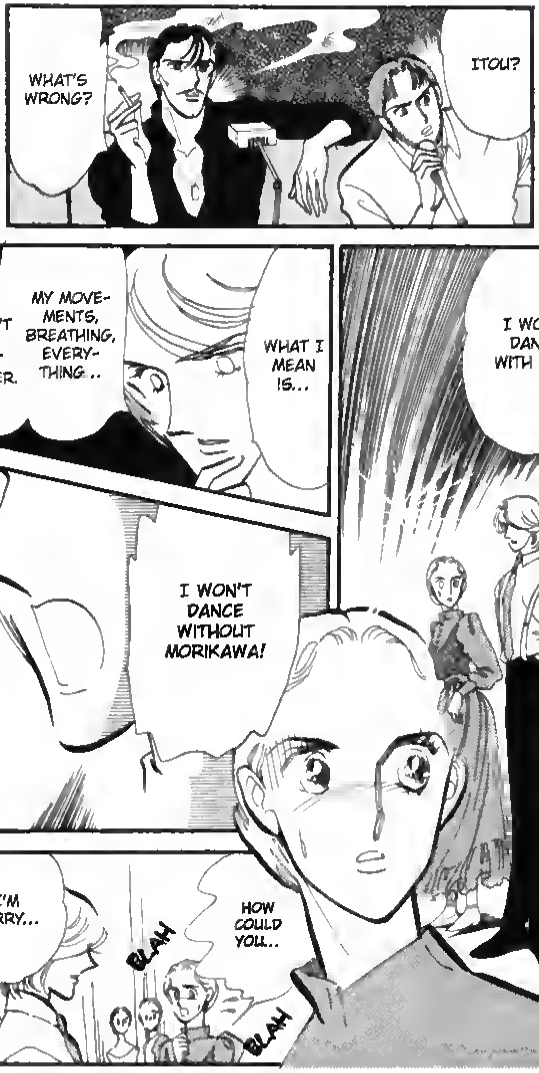

SILENCE
I don't know who did this, but if she wants the role so much, then she can have it for all I care!!
It's my gift to her!!
I won't hand over the role to anyone! I will dance it!!
No way!!
GRIP
I won't forgive the person who did this to me!!


WHERE DID MORIKAWA GO?
WE SEARCHED FOR HER BUT SHE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
MAYBE SHE PANICKED AND RAN AWAY?
GIVE ME A BREAK, THAT GIRL HAS GOT CHEEK!
BAM
BAM
WHAT IS IT?
AH, KAIDA-SAN.
DIRECTOR AKITA!
YOU ARE BEING TOO INDULGENT WITH THAT GIRL. SHE IS TOO IMMATURE FOR THAT ROLE!
WAIT A MOMENT!
ER, WELL..
I'M SURE SHE MUST HAVE AN IMPORTANT REASON.
I'M THE ONE WHO RECOMMENDED HER, SO I HOLD RESPONSIBILITY. REGARDING THE SUBSTITUTE DANCER...
SUBSTITUTE DANCER, YOU SAY...
I HATE IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE.

GIVE THE COSTUME TO THE SUBSTITUTE DANCER!
KAIDA-SAN!
BLAH
AS I THOUGHT...
BLAH
IT'S THE END FOR THAT GIRL. HOW STUPID OF HER.
BLAH
IT WILL BE DELAYED BY 45 MINUTES! HURRY UP!!
PAY ATTENTION! IN ANY CASE WE ARE GOING TO DO THE REHEARSAL.
Morikawa-san, where on earth are you!?

SHE HAS GOOD BALANCE.
INDEED. IF WE HAD CHOSEN HER FROM THE BEGINNING, WE WOULDN'T HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY PROBLEMS.
.....


ITOU-SAN?


WHAT'S WRONG?
ITOU?
I WON'T DANCE WITH HER.
WHAT I MEAN IS...
MY MOVEMENTS, BREATHING, EVERYTHING..
IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT WITH HER.
I WON'T DANCE WITHOUT MORIKAWA!
I'M SORRY...
BLAH
HOW COULD YOU...
BLAH

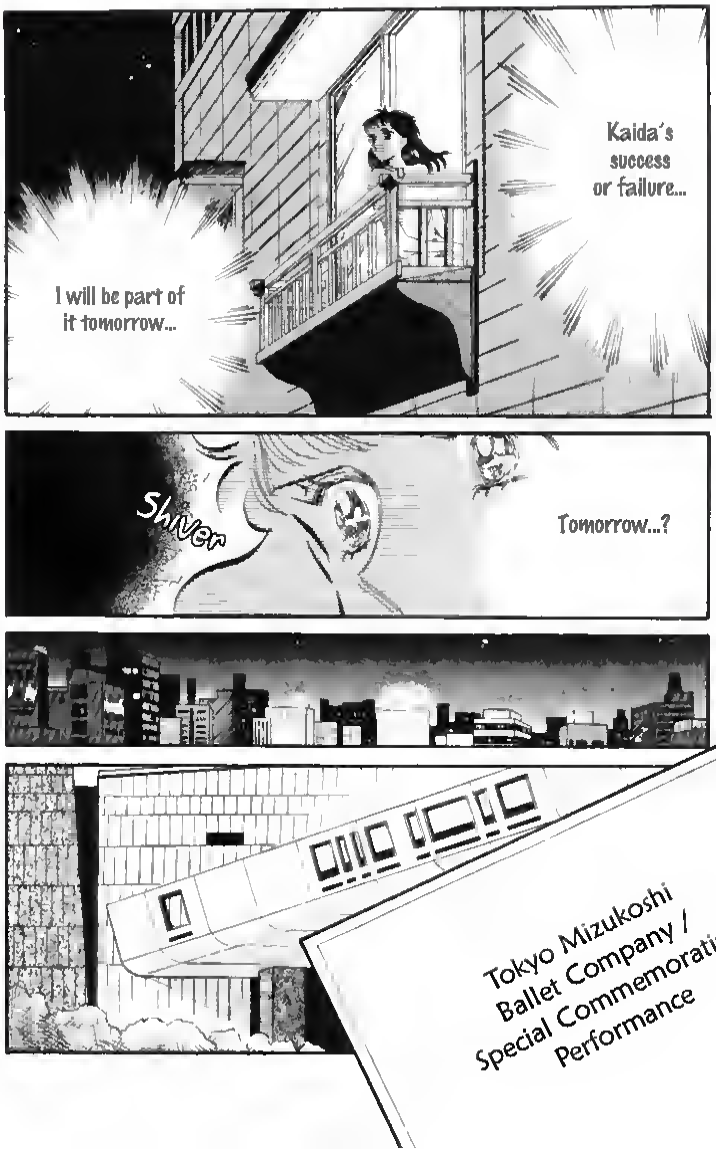
.....
CREEP
.....
FOLLOWING INSTINCT MORE THAN REASON, NOT PLANNING BUT LEAVING THINGS TO CHANCE, MOVING MORE UNCONSCIOUSLY THAN DELIBERATELY...
SLAM
THAT'S THE BEST PARTNERSHIP. EVEN SO, ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO DROP MORIKAWA KEIMI?
!
CLICK
WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE HARASSMENT... THERE ARE MANY CLASSIC WAYS OF DOING IT.
PEOPLE WHO DO THAT KIND OF THING HAVEN'T GOT ANY CREATIVITY.
ANYWAY, YOU'D BETTER RUN! KAIDA-SENSEI IS ANGRY!!
YANAGI-HARA-SAN, WHY...?
IT'S JUST WHAT I THOUGHT.
TAP
TAP
TAP

...FOR BEING LATE!
I'M SORRY...
SLAM
IT'S SLIPPERY THERE!
SLIP
!?
NOT AT ALL.
You could have caught me a little more gently
TH... THANKS
MORIKAWA! WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?
!
BUMP

MORIKAWA, GO PUT ON YOUR COSTUME
QUICKLY!
LISTEN! WE DON'T NEED YOUR FAR-FETCHED EXCUSES. THE REHEARSAL HAS BEEN ALREADY DELAYED FOR ONE HOUR!
A GHOST? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A GHOST LOCKED HER UP IN A LESSON ROOM.
THAT'S...
YES!
SIGH
Morikawa

I will really fall down if you keep saying that.
DON'T SAY THAT, MOM!
AH, I CAN'T CALM DOWN THINKING THAT YOU COULD FALL DOWN IN TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE.
HEY, YOU WORRY SO MUCH THAT IT'S TROUBLESOME
GRANNY!
CHOMP
LIGHT!!
EAT SOME-THING.
KEIMI, DON'T MIND HER AT ALL.
GREEN...
MOM!
YOU MAY SAY SO, BUT THIS KID IS A SCATTER-BRAIN...
A call from New York?
AH, CHI-HARU!!
MORI KAWA RESI-DENCE ...
RING

Why does everybody think that I'm going to fall down?
UNDERSTOOD?
I KNOW.
THE AUDIENCE GOES TO SEE YOU DANCE, NOT TO SEE YOUR MISTAKES.
I DANCED WITHOUT FALLING OR SLIPPING OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN MY PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS ARE EXPENSIVE, SO I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, OKAY?
HI KEIMI!
AH, I'M SORRY, KEIMI
DON'T WORRY!
.....
THEY WONDER IF IT WILL BE A SUCCESS OR A FAILURE...
EVEN HERE, THERE IS A LOT OF INTEREST IN KAIDA'S NEW WORK AND IN THE DANCERS HE CHOSE FOR IT.
.....
CLICK
GOOD LUCK!
I HAVE TO GO, LESSONS ARE STARTING.
KAIDA CHOSE THE CASTING ANTICIPATING THAT.
YOU SHOULD DANCE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. I'M SURE IT WILL BE A SUCCESS.


Kaida's success or failure...
I will be part of it tomorrow...
Shiver
Tomorrow...?
Tokyo Mizukoshi Ballet Company / Special Commemorative Performance

Yoshi wo Tsuna Donna
Volume 2 Chapter 3
Translated by Otohime
Proofread by Maris
Cleaned by JC
Edited by Nikkou
Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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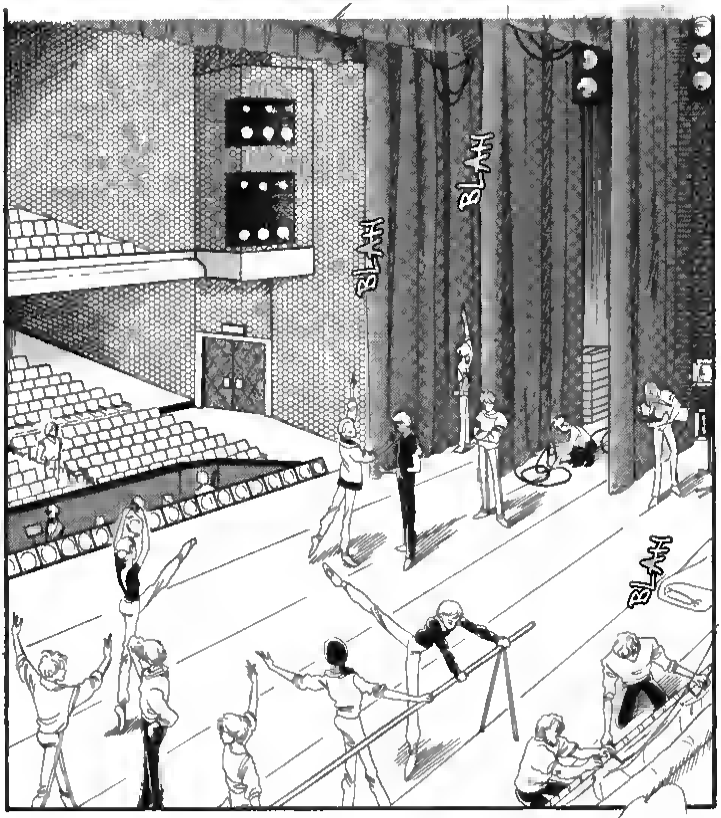
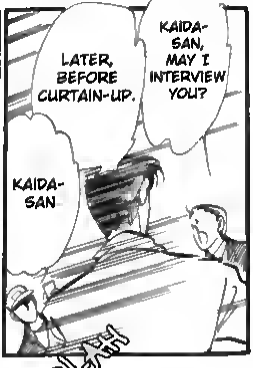

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

AH, PICK THAT UP.

LIKE THIS?
SLIDE IS ALWAYS AT ONE TEMPO.
NO


KAIDA-SAN, MAY I INTERVIEW YOU?
LATER, BEFORE CURTAIN-UP.
KAIDA-SAN
BLAM

YOUR COSTUME IS READY, MORIKAWA-SAN.
PAT
RUSTLE
My feet could get tangled in the dress...
Will it be all right? I hope I don't fall.
MORI-KAWA,
Ah... I'm getting so nervous..
COME HERE IF YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR COSTUME
RUSTLE
IT'S TIME FOR MAKE-UP.

Kuroki-san's make-up...
STYL FOA
I FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS GOING TO JUMP OUT THROUGH MY MOUTH...
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
IT'S OKAY. YOU WILL DANCE VERY WELL.
My eyes...
I'm quickly turning into another person..
My lips...
OPEN YOUR EYES...
Even my spirit is changing.

THERE IN THE MIRROR ...
IS A WOMAN WHO CARRIES
A DEEP SORROW.
Ah...
THIS IS A MOTHER'S FACE...

IT'S YOU.
WITH THIS, I HAVE PUT A SPELL ON YOU
YOU WILL DANCE TRANSFORMED INTO A MOTHER CRYING FOR HER CHILDREN
I CAN DO IT!
DING DONG

Adagietto
Nishina Eiji
HMN.
NISHINA-SAN... IS GREAT.
KEIMI...
YES?
SERI-OUSLY SPEAKING ...
DON'T MIND ME ..
I'VE COME THIS FAR. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT.

'Songs of a Wayfarer'
Nishina Eiji
Fujimura Tatsuru
I have no choice!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Good luck, Tatsu-kun!!
FUJIMURA IS TOO YOUNG...

GO ON STAGE. THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE YOU MUST GO NOW.
MORIKAWA-SAN, YOU ARE NEXT.
TATSU ...
TATSU-KUN!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
"Songs on the Death of Children"
Itou Shunichi
Yanagihara Misako
Morikawa Keimi

Now the sun wants to rise as brightly as if nothing terrible had happened during the night.
Whisper
HEY, WHO IS SHE?
SHE DOESN'T LOOK SIXTEEN YEARS OLD...
SHE MUST BE THAT SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD NEWCOMER THAT BYPASSED THE AUDITION

Oh you, a father's cell,
ah too quickly
bright joy lost too soon!
We would gladly stay with you!
Now that is denied to us by Fate.
Look at us, soon we will be far away!
What are only eyes to you in these days,
in the coming night shall be your stars—
I often think they have only
just gone out, and now they will
be coming back home
Don't be
dismayed,
the day
is fine.
Yes, they have simply
made a journey to
yonder heights.
I wasn't crazy
after all!!
GRAB

She may become a new star of the ballet world!!
Look at her dance!
RUSH
Huff Huff
MORI-KAWA-SAN,
YOU ARE BLEEDING!!
Huff Huff
I somehow managed to do the last part...

Eh?!
THERE'S SOME BLOOD ON YOUR POINTE SHOES.
LOOK!
AH...
A BLISTER MUST HAVE BURST!
YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR SHOES QUICKLY, MORIKAWA-SAN!
ERM... WELL...
NERVOUS
HERE, WEAR THESE.
AH.. YES.
THANKS.
BLAH BLAH
HURRY UP, MORI-KAWA-SAN!
TIE

In this weather, in this windy storm, I would never have sent the children out.
They have been carried off, I wasn't able to warn them!
YES.
HAVE YOU PUT THEM ON?
Wait! Where are you taking my children to!?
Let me go! My children are gone!!
Come here, it's painful but we are together.
SNAP

!
KYAA!
THE POINTE SHOE!
OH

THUNK

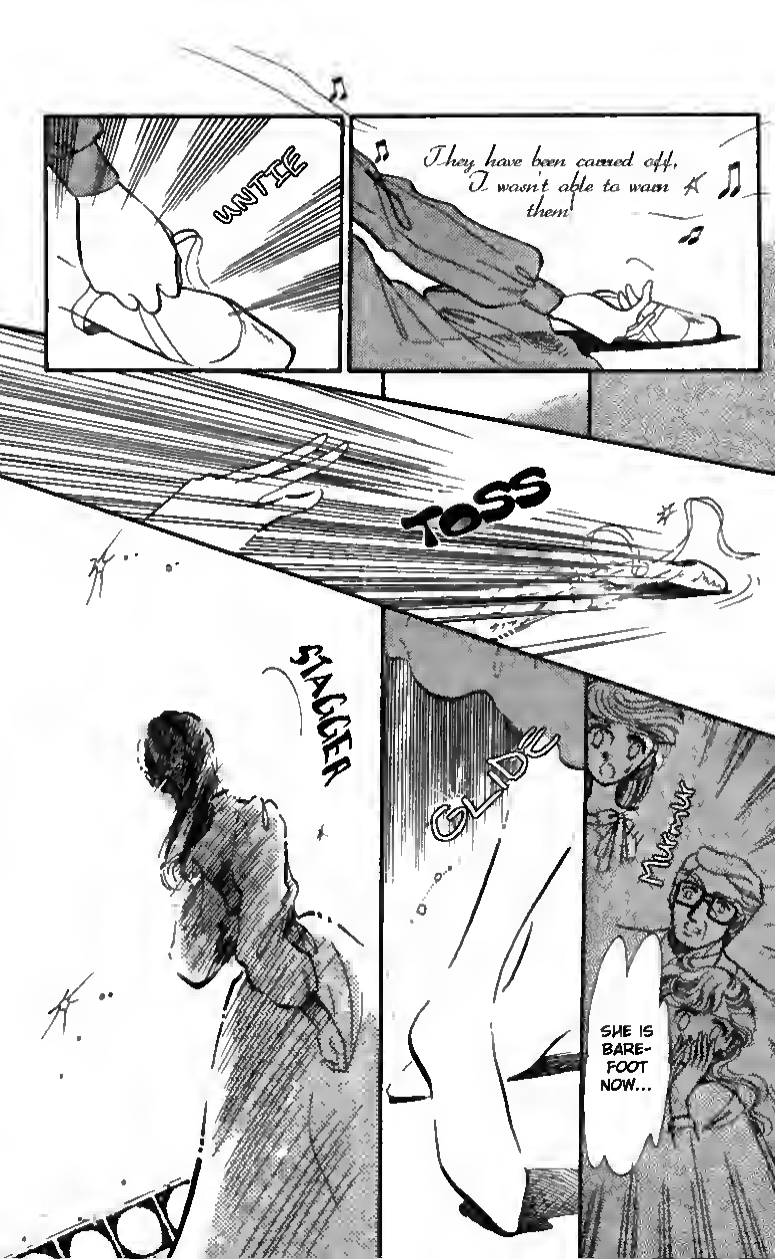
The pointe shoe...
She lost it...
The pointe shoe...

Ho Ho
What will you do now?
PANG
How do you plan to get over it?
What are you going to do, Morikawa Keiwi?
Without the support of those around you?
You are alone on the stage.
THE AUDIENCE GOES TO SEE YOU DANCE!!

NOT TO SEE YOUR MISTAKES, KEIMI!
I have to go on
as though nothing happened.
SHE'S DANCING ONLY ON ONE LEG. THAT'S SO DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT'S UNSTABLE!
SHE'S STARTING TO DANCE...

I have to keep dancing...
I WONDER IF SHE WILL DANCE LIKE THAT TILL THE END
IT'S AS IF SHE'S DRAGGING ALONG THAT LEG...
POOR THING, DANCING ON ONE LEG.
SHE IS DANCI NG...

In this weather, in this storm, I would never have let the children out
IT SEEMS TO EMPHASIZE THE MOTHER'S PAIN...
BUT SOMEHOW...


UNTIE
They have been carried off. I wasn't able to warn them
TOSS
STAGGER
GLIDE
Murmur
SHE IS BARE-FOOT NOW...

My children are gone!!
NO WONDER...
I SEE!
IT'S PART OF KAIDA'S DIRECTION!
THE BAREFOOT DANCER IS A METAPHOR FOR THE FEELINGS OF A MOTHER WHO'S LOST HER CHILDREN..
HOW DARING. IT WAS A SURPRISE WHAT A WONDERFUL DRAMATIC EFFECT!

In this weather, in this gale,
in this windy storm,
they rest as if in their mother's house.
Enlightened by no storm,
sheltered by the Hand of God.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
BRAVO
CLAP
BRAVO
CLAP

REALLY .. WE WERE ALL SURPRISED BY THE TRICK KAIDA-SENSEI PLANNED WITH YOU.
I did it to the end without any accidents?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CURTAIN CALL!! Stand in a line, Please!!
Morikawa
IT'S A SUCCESS
Eh?
What trick?
IT WAS WONDERFUL!
CONGRATULATIONS, MORIKAWA-SAN.
CONGRATULATIONS
YOU WERE GREAT!
THANKS ...
Ah..
CURTAIN'S GOING UP!
I'M SO GLAD
CONGRATS.

I WONDER WHEN HE ADDED THE PART ABOUT THROWING AWAY THE POINTE SHOES.
SHE DIDN'T DO THAT IN REHEARSAL
Maybe he wanted to see it until the performance
KAIDA IS ALWAYS SURPRISING US AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT..
THE HEADLINE IS "KAIDA'S FANTASTIC DIRECTION"
BRAVO
CLAP
CLAP
Is that what everybody thinks?
Let's do an encore curtain call
AAAH!
IT'S KAIDA-SENSE!
CLAP
BRAVO
CLAP
CLAP
KAIDA!

CLAP
BRAVO
CLAP
Kaida-sensei?

KUROKI-SAN!

Hug!

AH, THANK YOU!
Thank you very much.
I appreciate your efforts.
THA-NKS
I'M GLAD FOR YOU, MORIKAWA-KUN.

I'M NOT JOKING. TOMORROW AT 2 P.M IN THE TOUTO HOTEL YOU, KAIDA, THE SUPERVISOR, AND IKUKO-SENSEI WILL TAKE PART.
DON'T LIE! WHY WOULD THEY WANT ME?
GIGGLE GIGGLE
PRESS CONFER-ENCE!?
THE RIBBON ON YOUR POINTE SHOES BROKE, IS THAT RIGHT?
EVERYONE SEEMS TO THINK IT WAS A LAST MINUTE ADJUST-MENT
SOME-ONE CUT IT..
WE CAN'T LET WHOEVER DID IT GO UNPUN-ISHED
THE AUDIENCE AND THE MASS MEDIA THINK IT'S PART OF KAIDA'S STRIKING CHOREO-GRAPHY.
THAT'S THE OFFICIAL STORY.
BUT IF THEY KNEW IT WAS NOTHING BUT AN ACCIDENT..

IF THEY KNEW?
THE HIGH PRAISES MAY TURN INTO SNEERS.
BUT IT WAS A SUCC-ESS!
DO YOU THINK KAIDA IS SATISFIED WITH THAT?
CERTAINLY THAT MISTAKE CAUSED THE AUDIENCE TO BE DEEPLY MOVED.
BUT IT WASN'T KAIDA'S IDEA.
AND HE IS A MAN OF HIGH PRIDE.
THEN WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SHOULD I HAVE RUN FROM THE STAGE
AND LET EVERYONE PITY ME BECAUSE SOMEONE CUT THE RIBBON ON MY SHOE?
SHOULD I HAVE INTERRUPTED THE WHOLE PRODUCTION BY CAUSING A SCENE?

MORIKAWA ...!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M REWARDED FOR WHAT I'VE DONE AS LONG AS EVERYBODY IS HAPPY?
I'M SORRY.
YOU WERE GREAT.
YOU DANCED THE WHOLE THING ON YOUR OWN
AND I WAS ALSO DEEPLY MOVED WATCHING YOU DANCE.
YOU WERE A BETTER "MOTHER" THAN THE ONE I CREATED.

OPEN
YOU ARE ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND ALREADY A SPLENDID ARTIST
Keimi...
and Kuroki-san!?
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH

Hoshi wo Tsuna Donna
Volume 2 Chapter 4
Translated by Otohime
Proofread by Maris
Edited by Nikkou
Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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KAIDA-SAN, YOU PROMOTED AN UNKNOWN DANCER AT THE YOUNG AGE OF SIXTEEN. WHY?
I WAS LOOKING FOR DANCERS WITH POTENTIAL. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THEIR ABILITY TO PERFORM.
A DANCER WITH A STRONG WILL WHO CAN PUT UP WITH ME AND HELP ME ACHIEVE MY VISION
AND MORIKAWA KEIMI IS ONE OF THOSE DANCERS?
THE ONE WHO TORE OFF HER DANCING SHOES ONSTAGE...
MORIKAWA-SAN, HOW DO YOU FEEL
ABOUT HAVING PERFORMED IN SUCH A FAMOUS PRODUCTION?
EMM
EMBOLDENED, I SUPPOSE...
...
They're immediately asking that question
GLARE
STARTLED
THAT SCENE WITH THE POINTE SHOES THAT'S BECOME SO FAMOUS...
...SPEAKING OF WHICH...
HA HA HA

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT HER TO TIE THEM CORRECTLY.
SHE TOOK OFF HER POINTE SHOE FOR A SILLY REASON SHE DISCOVERED SHE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THEM ONCE SHE WAS ONSTAGE
IT WAS . .
A MISTAKE ON MORI-KAWA'S PART.
MIS-TAKE?
BLAH
IT CAN'T BE...
BLAH
IT CAN'T BE...
Mumu
Mumu
THEN IT WAS ONLY A MIS-TAKE . .
THE AUDIENCE THOUGHT IT WAS PART OF MY CHOREOGRAPHY... I WAS JEALOUS...
HOW-EVER,

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, KAIDA-SAN?
Huh?
EXHALES
IF IT HAD REALLY BEEN A PART OF THE CHOREOGRAPHY...
THE AUDIENCE WOULD HAVE SEEN IT AS A DISPLAY OF MY ORIGINALITY.
IT WAS SHEER CHANCE.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEATRE ALIVE! AND IT'S THE SAME FOR THE DEEP EMOTIONS THAT WERE BORN FROM IT!
THIS GIRL IS AN OUTSTANDING TALENT!
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
!?

I'D HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH SOMEONE ABOUT IT.
WHO KNOWS. I HAVE NO COMMENT FOR THE TIME BEING.
What?
KAIDA-SAN... COULD YOU BE PLANNING TO TAKE HER TO HAMBURG?
What did he say!?

Kaida hints at taking Morikawa to Hamburg!!

A genius ballerina at age sixteen

Rising star Morikawa Keimi's dramatic energy.

"Songs on the Death of Children" opening night performance in Japan is a success!!

WHAT'S WITH THIS REVIEW? THEY DON'T SPEAK FRANKLY. THEY SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID THAT IT WAS NO GOOD.
Rustle
AND HERE IT SAYS ...
"THE DUE OF NISHINA AND FUJIMURA WORKED WELL WITHIN KAIDA'S DEMANDS, BUT DIDN'T DARE TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL."
"THE BRILLIANT SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD BALLERINA LET US DISCOVER ANEW A VARIETY OF EXPRESSIONS, IN SPITE OF THE UNUSUAL RESTRICTIONS OF DANCING ON ONE LEG, DUE TO AN ACCIDENT WITH HER POINTE SHOE
MOM... DON'T READ THAT OUT LOUD
IT'S CONSIDERABLE PRAISE
AT THE TIME, WE FELT AS IF WE WERE WATCHING ISADORA DUNCAN"
I BORROWED THIS FROM THE BALLET COMPANY. IT'S THE AMERICAN HERALD TRIBUNE
THERE'S EVEN MORE
What does it say?
"SONGS OF A WAYFARER" PERFORMED BY EIJI NISHINA AND TATSURU FUJIMURA...
FUJIMURA, ESPECIALLY, DANCED MEEKLY, LIKE A PUPPET UNDER THE COMMAND OF HIS MAESTRO KAIDA."
WAS LIKE A DISPOSABLE PAPER CUP

STOP IT ALREADY!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE IT...
THAT'S A HARSH CRITICISM, ISN'T IT?
TATSURU...
...
TO DANCE IS A STRICT DISCIPLINE
BUT IF YOU CONTINUE, IT WILL BECOME STRICTER
YOU WILL FORGET THIS PAIN SOON, SO GO BACK TO PRACTICE, OKAY?
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP DANCING, YOUR PRIDE WILL BE TORN TO PIECES. SO GET RID OF THAT INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

...
SLAM
AND DON'T RIP UP THESE NEWSPAPERS I HAVE TO RETURN THEM.
In the blink of an eye, a huge gap has opened between us...
Yesterday and the day before, Keimi was very busy with interviews.
Even Kaida is pleased with her. She's his most promising new star.
Besides...
Keimi!!

Plié
Turn
東京水越バレエ
RIP
I CAN'T STAND IT!
KYAAA!
!
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!

WAS IT YOU? DID YOU CUT THE RIBBONS ON KEIMI'S POINTE SHOES...?
...
DON'T PRETEND TO BE A GOOD BUY! YOU'RE ANGRY TOO!!
HOW COULD YOU? HAVE YOU NO SHAME?
AND LOCK KEIMI UP AT THE DRESS REHEARSAL?
YOUR DANCE GOT A PRETTY BAD REVIEW, DIDN'T IT?
MORIKAWA KEIMI STOLE THE ROLE FROM ME AND SHE HAD SUCCESS. I FEEL MISERABLE. YOU KNOW THE FEELING.
HMPH

ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME?
!
HA HA HA
A DISPOSABLE PAPER CLIP, AM I RIGHT?
I'm late for practice.
TAP TAP

RATTLE CLATTER
!
My bag...
AH!
OPEN
SORRY!
SKREEEE
HEY YOU! OBEY THE TRAFFIC LIGHT!
Why?
I want to see him...
TATSU-KUN.
HU HU
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
Tatsu-kun...
We haven't talked lately...
EH?
HEY, ISN'T THAT MORIKAWA KEIMI?
HUH?
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU MORIKAWA KEIMI?
YEAH.
We like ballet
SHOULD WE ASK FOR HER AUTO-GRAPH?
NO, I'M SURE OF IT. MIZUKOSHI BALLET IS NEAR HERE
Maybe she's going to a lesson
LOOK, SHE HAS DANCE CLOTHES IN HER BAG
EH?? YOU MEAN HER?
THAT'S JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL!

Tatsu-kun!?
WELL... WE...
ERM...

Suzumoto-san, from Mizukoshi ballet.
Tatsu-kun and...
Oh no... I didn't know!!
COULD WE... HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

He has a girlfriend...
MORI-KAWA-SAN...
ERM... YOUR AUTO-GRAPH...
SORRY, I'M LATE.
WHAT WAS THAT?
I don't know.
THIS IS NOT A PARTY!!
Yes.
YOU'RE LATE, MORIKAWA!!
SOR-RY.
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO. IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO PRACTICE, THEN GO HOME!
Keiko, Your performance was broadcasted in the USA.

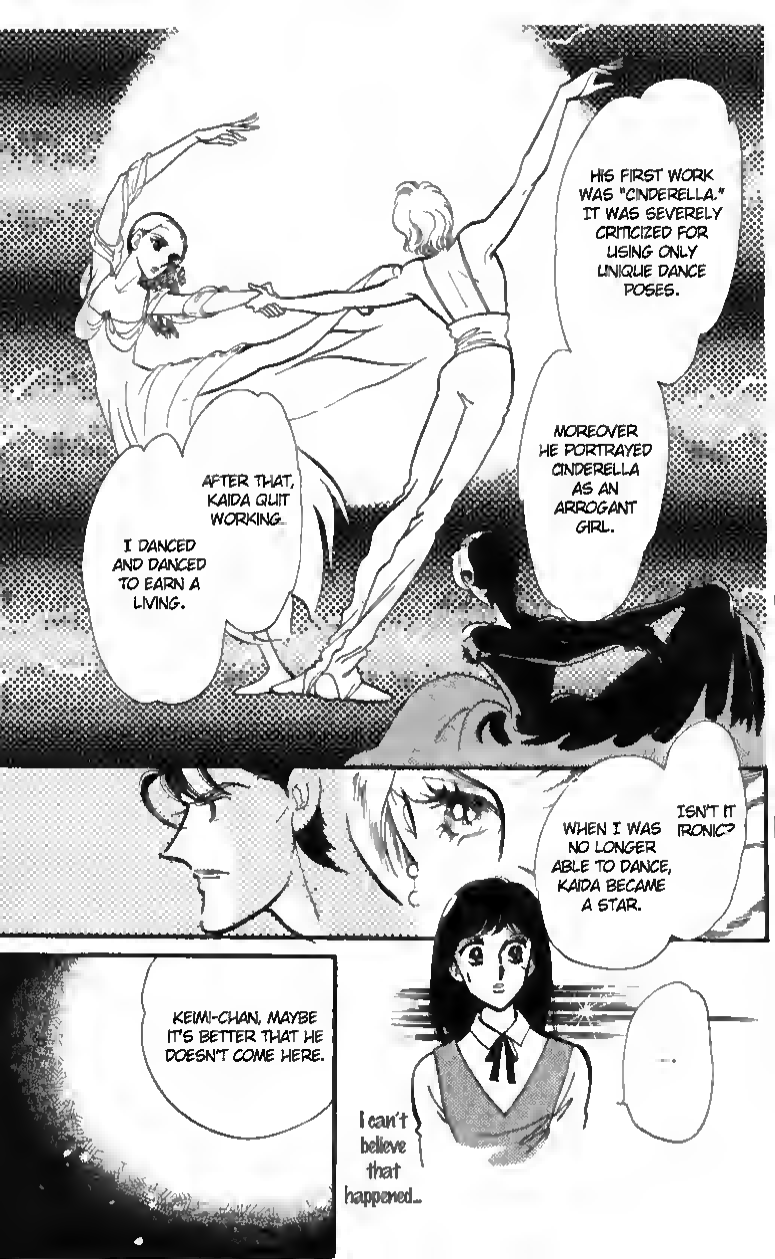
Congratulations on your success. It was very popular here.
Especially the scene with the pointe shoes. I couldn't stop crying. I knew you'd improved your technique. But your performance was so poetic...
By the way, the duo performed by Tatsuru-kun and Eiy-san was very creative, even though it wasn't popular here.
GO BACK HOME
It hurts
CRACK
THOSE OF YOU WHO NEGLECT THE BASICS WILL CRY LATER!!
I found it strange that Tatsuru-kun didn't dance like himself. I was sure he'd show off his own style. Tatsuru-kun must be hurt by the failure. Keiri, try to comfort him...
Sister, he is already being comforted by another girl.

YES.
DOWN
GO BACK HOME!! DON'T BE CONCEITED AND SLACK OFF AFTER YOUR PERFORMANCE!
I'm not that girl...
MORIKAWA!!
SHE ACTUALLY WENT HOME.
WHEN THE TEACHER SAYS "GO HOME," IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
SLAM
...

DRINK SLOWLY.
I WILL KEEP YOU COMPANY.
Café bar
デルエラ
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT THIS FACE IS SO NOT LIKE YOU.
WAIT A MOMENT I'LL BRING YOU A CHOCOLATE CAKE TO CHEER YOU UP.
OKAY.
GRIP
I DON'T THINK I CAN JOIN YOU WITH ORANGE JUICE, THOUGH
HA HA HA
SORRY, YOU CAME TO CHEER UP.
SOB

WHAT IS IT?
COULD IT BE...
HERE, HAVE SOME.
THANKS...
THE NAME OF THIS BAR, "DELL' ERA"...
THAT'S THE NAME OF A DANCER!
I WONDER IF THAT NICK-NAME...
...NO.
BUT YOU HAVE DANCER'S LEGS.
WHY?
*ANTONIETTA DELL'ERA WAS THE FIRST SUGAR PLUM FAIRY IN THE NUTCRACKER.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THESE ARE DANCER'S LEGS, BUT THEY'RE RAVAGED BY ARTHRITIS.
Arthritis...
KAIDA-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED TO CALL ME "DELL'ERA."
TWENTY YEARS AGO HE WAS STILL AN UP-AND-COMING CHOREOGRAPHER.
HE HAD A WICKED TONGUE, WAS OVERLY CONFIDENT AND IMPERTINENT, BUT HE HAD A FOLLOWING.


HIS FIRST WORK WAS "CINDERELLA." IT WAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR USING ONLY UNIQUE DANCE POSES.
MOREOVER HE PORTRAYED CINDERELLA AS AN ARROGANT GIRL.
AFTER THAT, KAIDA QUIT WORKING.
I DANCED AND DANCED TO EARN A LIVING.
ISN'T IT IRONIC?
WHEN I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO DANCE, KAIDA BECAME A STAR.
...
I can't believe that happened...
KEIMI-CHAN, MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT HE DOESN'T COME HERE.

WHY? I THINK YOU...
THERE MAY BE MOMENTS WHEN I FEEL LONELY HERE BY MYSELF,
BUT BALLET FRUS-TRATED ME.
YOUR DESTINY IS TO MAKE THE FLOWERS BLOOM WITH YOUR DANCING...
A BRIGHT WORLD IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU.
YOU ARE YOUNG AND FULL OF DREAMS
LIKE A YOUNG TREE JUST STARTING TO GROW.
Ma'am...

SORRY, THE BAR IS CLOSED TONIGHT.
CREAK
EH? OKAY!
KEN-CHAN, LET'S CLOSE THE BAR FOR TONIGHT.
!
YOU LOOK WELL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
SLAM
OKAY.
KEN-CHAN, YOU CAN GO HOME.

I CAME TO THANK YOU...
FOR GIVING BIRTH TO REO.
DON'T BE SO UNFRIENDLY.
YOU'RE A SUCCESS NOW.
WHAT DO YOU NEED WITH A WOMAN YOU ABANDONED YEARS AGO?
I'M TRYING TO RESIST THE URGE TO SLAP YOU!
YOU'VE FINISHED WHAT YOU CAME TO DO IN JAPAN, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT A TALENT I HAVE...
HE GOT IT FROM YOU.
THEY BURN INTO YOUR EYES AND NEVER GO AWAY.
THE IMAGES HE PAINTS ARE BRILLIANT, EROTIC AND STRONG.

DON'T MENTION IT.
I'M RISKING EVERYTHING ON A DANCER I FOUND.
SPAAM
NO, I STILL...
IKUKO-SAN WON'T STAY SILENT. SHE'S A TROUBLESOME WOMAN, ISN'T SHE?
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT DESTINY WITH HER.
THANKS
I SEE YOU STILL REMEMBER MY TASTES.
A SINGLE, RIGHT?
CLINK

Today Tatsu-kun didn't come to the practices either...
What on earth happened to him?
Since the performance he seems to have changed. He is playing around all the time...
SHE HASN'T COME YET.
CAN SOMEONE STAND IN FOR YANAGIHARA?
CAN I DO IT?
.....!
If I focus my mind on dancing then I won't think about unpleasant things.

I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE THE NEW STAR OF MIZUKOSHI BALLET AS MY PARTNER.
MORIKAWA'S DANCING HAS CHANGED.
ISN'T SHE SELF-CONFIDENT? OF COURSE.
SHE'S BEEN BLESSED WITH OPPORTUNITIES.
IT WAS UNFOCUSED BEFORE, BUT NOW...
O-PEN
YES?
RIGHT NOW I WANT TO HAVE A WORD WITH MORIKAWA-SAN.
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING, YANAGIHARA?

I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT A "FOUETTE EN TOURNANT" IS, RIGHT?
YES...
IN ACT 3 OF "SWAN LAKE," THE BLACK SWAN, ODILE, DOES 32 CONSECUTIVE FOUETTES
LET'S COMPETE.
I DON'T WANT TO COMPETE...
ONLY PRACTICING IS BORING.
CAN YOU HANDLE THIS DIFFICULT TECHNIQUE?
BUT... I'VE NEVER DONE 32 ROTATIONS..
YOU'RE A COWARD.
YOU WON'T LET US OBSERVE YOUR TECHNIQUE?

BLAH BLAH
IT WILL BE INTER-ESTING.
WELL, SHALL WE?
IN BALLET, STRENGTH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART.
OF COURSE WE'D APPRECI-ATE THE OPPORTUNITY.
KUH?
IF YOU CAN DO THE ROTATIONS WITH THE PIVOT LEG NEVER LEAVING THIS SPOT, IT WILL BE PERFECT.
THIS WILL BE THE SPOT.
I'M ASKING MORIKA-WA-SAN!
WILL YOU DO IT OR NOT?
ON THE OTHER HAND, YANAGI-HARA-SAN HAS DONE IT MANY TIMES ON-STAGE.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. MORIKAWA-SAN HAS HARDLY PRACTICED DOING ROTATIONS.
HUH? SUCH A SMALL SPOT?

SILENCE
If that will satisfy her...
I'LL DO IT.
I'LL GO FIRST, OKAY?
BLAH
BLAH
A ONE-ON-ONE COMPETITION
BLAH
BLAH
WHAT'S THIS?

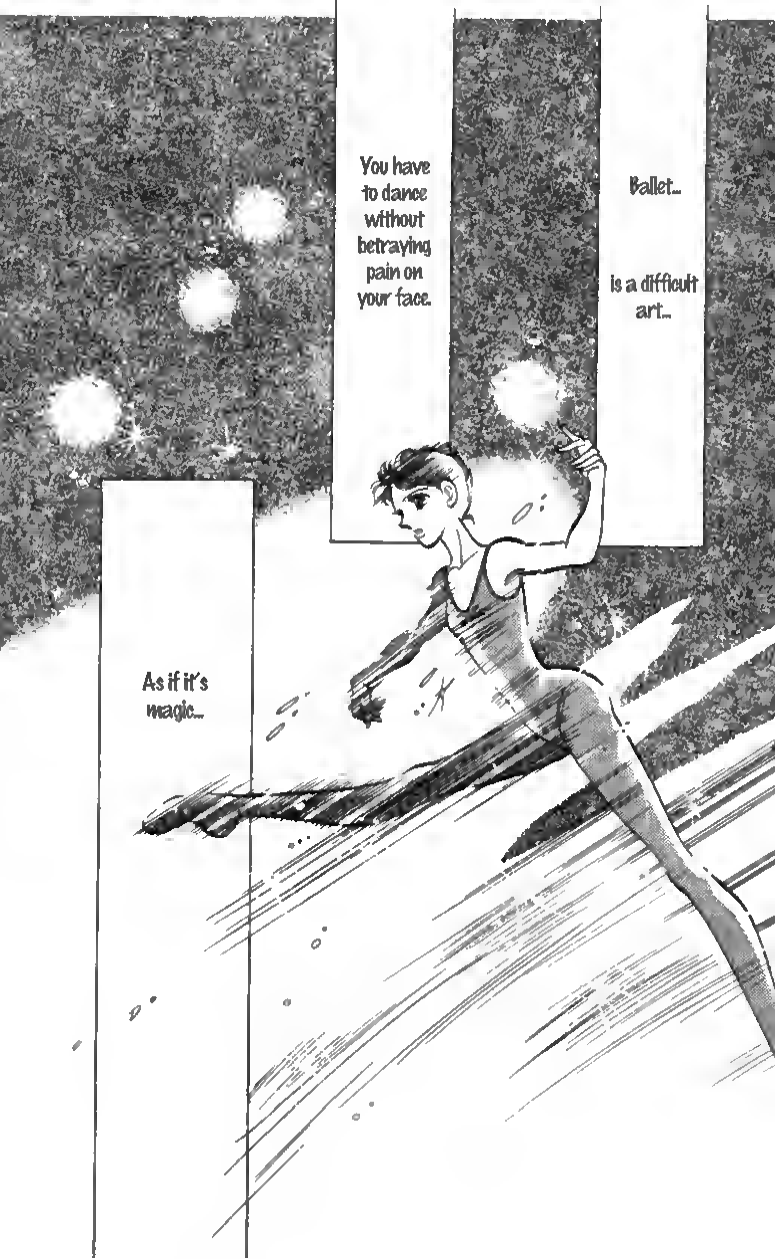
ONE...
TWO...
SIXTEEN...
SEVENTEEN...
EIGHTEEN...
NINETEEN...

GULP
HER STYLE IS SPLENDID
OH MY GOD... SHE IS TERRIFIC
Even though she isn't wearing the costume, she truly is the Black Swan.
She is... a star.

TWENTY NINE...
THIRTY...
THIRTY ONE...
TURN
TURN
THIRTY TWO!
WELL?
TAP
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
I DIDN'T MOVE FROM THE SPOT.
I DID 33 ROTATIONS.

I'LL COUNT FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANY-THING, JUST FOCUS ON THE ROTA-TIONS
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
Anyway...
Let's start...
I don't know if Yanagihara-san is being kind or malicious.
Fouette en tournant is one of the most difficult turns and on top of that I have to com-pete in public...

ONE...
TWO...
THREE...


Ballet...
is a difficult art...
You have to dance without betraying pain on your face.
As if it's magic...

Turn...
Turn...
Turn...
...MORIKAWA-SAN!

YOU'VE DONE FORTY ROTATIONS!
AH, SORRY, I WAS IN A DAZE.
I DIDN'T NOTICE ...
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
YOUR PIVOT LEG HARDLY MOVED FROM THE SPOT.
I ADMIT YOU'RE TALENTED.
YOUR ROTATIONS WERE FAST AND YOUR PIVOT LEG DIDN'T SLIDE.
NOT ONLY THAT, YOUR BREATHING AND TURNS WEREN'T IN DISARRAY.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.. I COULDN'T STAND YOU.
JUMPING TWICE AS HIGH AS NORMAL, KEEPING YOUR BALANCE WITHOUT SUPPORT..
YOU HAD TO BE A MON-STER..
BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND.
YOU WERE BORN TO DANCE.
Was I born to dance?
BLAH BLAH
I get it! You've got prestige and talent.
But I will take something from you...
Something very precious. I swear it!!

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna
Volume 2 Chapter 5
Translated by Otohime
Proofread by Maris
Edited by Nikkou
Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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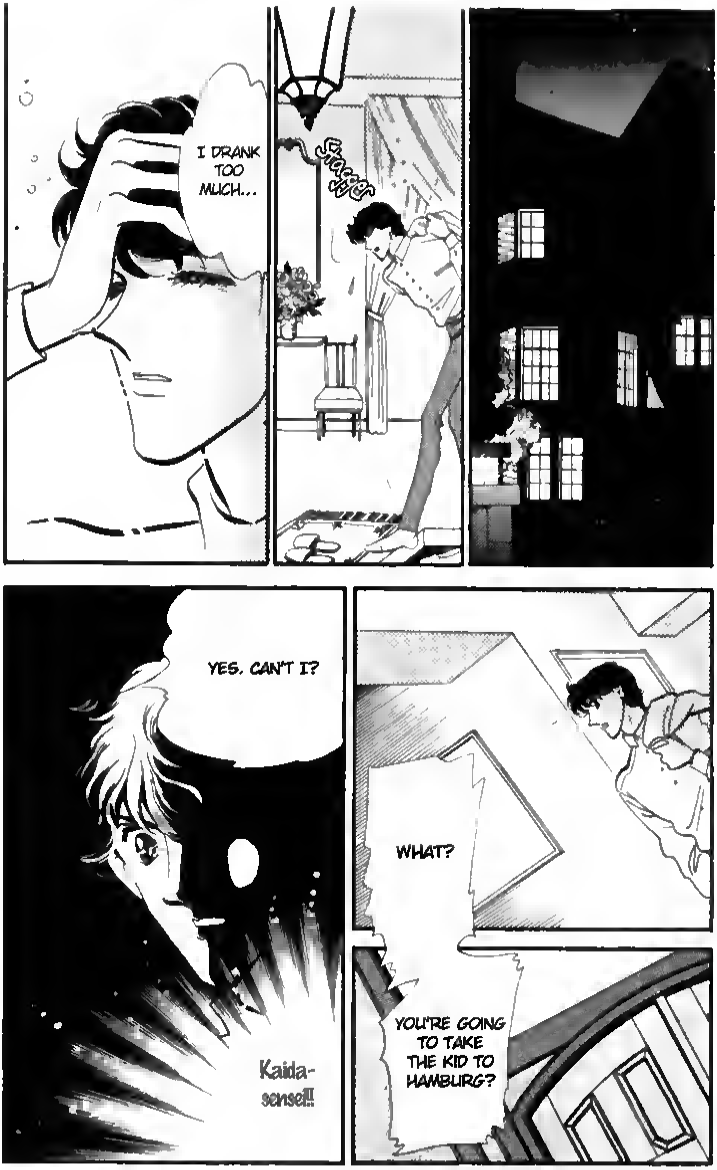

I DRANK TOO MUCH...
STAGGER
YES. CAN'T I?
Kaida-sensei!!
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THE KID TO HAMBURG?

They are talking about Keini! Then it's true that she is going to Hamburg...
I WON'T ALLOW IT! WHY?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WANT.
EVEN IF YOU OBJECT, I'LL DO IT.
I ALWAYS GET WHAT I WANT.
Keini

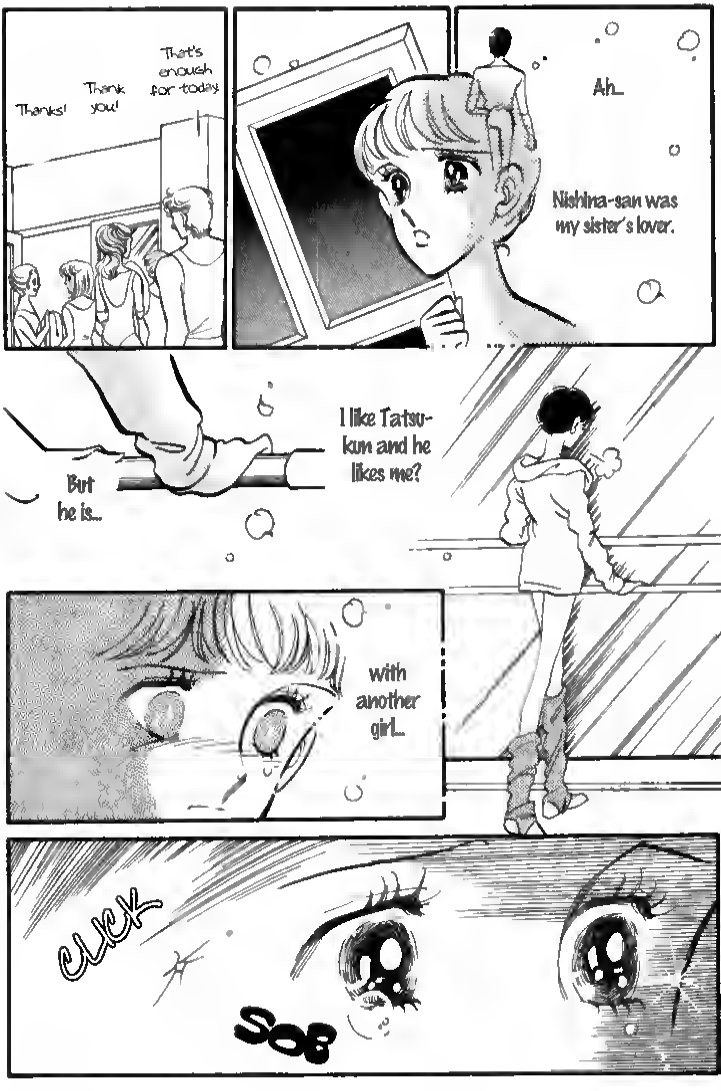
I should have known since the performance...
Kaida-sensei is going to take Keiwi to Hamburg with him.
But I didn't want to think about it, so I played around with a girl I don't love...
I'm so stupid!!

MORIKAWA-SAN IS GOING TO A BALLET COMPANY IN HAMBURG!?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
I'M SURE HE MEANS TO TURN YOU INTO A PROMINENT PRIMA BALLERINA!! YOU ARE GOING TO GO, RIGHT?
EXCITED
YES, I REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE!!
I'M SURE THAT MORIKAWA-SAN IS THE ONE HE WANTS TO COME WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO HIS COUNTRY!
PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT KAIDA-SENSEI INTRUDED ON IKUKO-SENSEI'S BUSINESS!
IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE!

THAT GIRL! WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HAMBURG BALLET HERE! DOESN'T SHE GET IT?
SIGH
I'm unhappy with that reply
BESIDES,
MY SISTER IS ALREADY STUDYING ABROAD. IT'S FINE IF IT'S JUST ONE OF US.
Going to Hamburg...
with the famous Kaida-sensei...
to a prominent ballet company.
to become a Prima Ballerina...
But...
Tatsu-kun won't be there...

WORRIED ABOUT FUJIMURA?
EH?
YOU'RE SPACING OUT, AREN'T YOU?
Attitude allongée.
HEH HEH. YOU ARE TRANSPARENT.
Don't make perverted faces.
MAYBE A LITTLE... MMM, WELL...
NO, COME ON!
URGH
...NISHINA-SAN?
THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFER-ENT...
IF I ALSO HAD BEEN HONEST WITH CHIHARU...

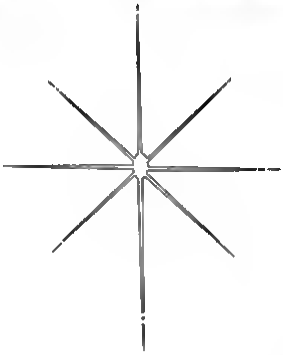
YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT?
EH?
YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT BOTH OF YOU.
FUJIMURA LIKES YOU TOO.
BUT HE IS AVOIDING YOU BECAUSE HE FEELS INFERIOR.
YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR FEELINGS CLEAR BEFORE YOU'RE TORN APART.
LOOK AT THOSE TWO!
THEY DANCE WITH SUCH ELEGANCE!
A PERSON'S HEART...
IS DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE, AND DIFFICULT TO READ..


That's enough for today
Thank you!
Thanks!
Ah...
Nishina-san was my sister's lover.
I like Tatsu-kun and he likes me?
But he is...
with another girl...
ack
Sob

I THOUGHT YOU HAD LEFT ALREADY...
TATSU-KUN...
Practice clothes...
He is willing to keep practicing...
I'm glad...
KEIKO...

I...
TATSURU!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Sugimoto-san...
I don't want to see this!
STOP!
This is bad!!
HEY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT.
YOU PROMISED WE'D GO FOR A DRINK AT THAT PLACE WE ALWAYS GO TO

HA
HA
HA
AND YOU'RE NOT LIKE TATSURU, THE "PAPER CLIP," AS THE CRITICS CALL HIM.
EVEN IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, YOU'RE THE "PRODIGY BALLERINA," AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOT LIKE ME. YOU TOOK THAT ROLE FROM ME.
GOING HOME ALREADY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PRACTICE BY YOURSELF.
OH, MORIKAWA-SAN.


I WON'T ALLOW IT.

I_ I WO ..WON'T ALLOW THAT YOU TALK ABOUT TATSU-KUN LIKE THAT
TA...TATSU-KUN WILL BE A GREAT DANCER BEFORE LONG!!
SUGI-MOTO!
Hmph
YOU ARE STAMME-RING.
I BELIEVE IN HIM NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY!!
SLAM
...
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

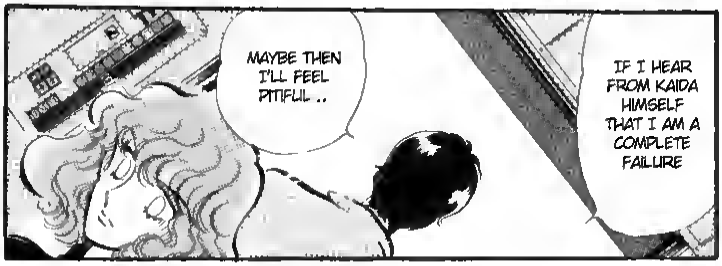
If I go to Hamburg, I will be separated from Tatsu-kun...

What to do...
What should I do?

Maybe Kuroki-san can help me...
TATSURU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING MEETING KAIDA NOW?

ARE YOU GOING TO ASK HIM TO TAKE YOU TO HAMBURG TOO?
AHH
HOW PITIFUL.
...
NO!! DON'T GO!
HAHA
5
4
3
12
11
10
1

PITIFUL YOU SAY... IF I MISS MY LAST CHANCE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF.

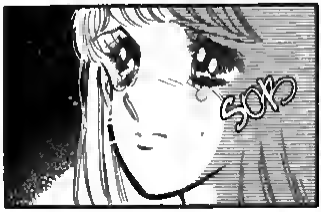

IF I HEAR FROM KAIDA HIMSELF THAT I AM A COMPLETE FAILURE
MAYBE THEN I'LL FEEL PITIFUL ..

I WILL START FROM SCRATCH IF NECESSARY!!
I HAVE BEEN WAIT-ING...
ORU
FOR YOU TO COME, FUJI-MURA.
WHAT YOU JUST SAID TO ME?
DO YOU MEAN ...
RATE

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT HAMBURG.
KUROKI-SAN?
YES, HE IS IN BUSINESS MEETING WITH THE TECHNICAL STAFF.
HE COMES TO OVERSEE THE PRACTICES EVERY DAY, EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SMALL THEATRICAL COMPANY. THIS TIME IT WILL A BIG SUCCESS
You must come watch "Jake and Momotaro" as well!
KUROKI-SAN!

JUST NOW..
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HI.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ASK ME?


SOB

GUARD

Tatsu-kun is...
THE ONE KAIDA WANTS TO TAKE TO HAM-BURG...
IS TAT-SURU.
HE'S STAYING IN THE HOTEL ABOVE THIS BUILDING, AND THAT'S WHAT I HEARD HIM SAY.
ARE YOU SUR-PRISED?
MAYBE ALL STARTED WHEN TATSURU'S DANCE BECAME SO UN-POPULAR.
THE CRITICS ALL SAID HE WAS KAIDA'S PUPPET.
BUT WHAT THAT ALSO MEANS IS THAT HE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME KAIDA'S IDEAL DANCER.
BUT OF COURSE, KAIDA IS A PERFECTIONIST. IT WON'T BE A BED OF ROSES.
TATSU-KUN GOT IT.
AT LAST!

BUT... I'LL STILL HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM.
MAYBE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.
A PERSON'S HEART... IS DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE, AND DIFFICULT TO READ...
WELL, LOTS OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, RIGHT?
IF YOU KNOW YOUR FEELINGS FOR HIM, THEN YOU CAN WAIT FOR HIM.
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT YOURSELF.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T USE THE AMBIGUOUS WORDS YOU OFTEN USE
BECAUSE IN YOUR HEART THERE IS NOTHING AMBIGUOUS
DO WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU TO.
BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU TWO ARE APART, YOU STILL HAVE BALLET!!

THAT'S RIGHT... BALLET.
I WAS RAISED AS AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.
BALLET WAS WHAT CONNECTED ME TO KAIDA.
WHO ABANDONED MY MOTHER AND ME
KAIDA NEVER ACTED AS MY FATHER, BUT HIS DRIVE TO FIND BEAUTY AND SHOWCASE IT
IS THE ONE THING THAT MAKES ME KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT I'M HIS SON.
HE MAY NOT BE PLAYING THE ROLE I WANTED HIM TO
BUT AT LEAST WE'RE SHARING THE STAGE
KAIDA HAS CHOSEN TATSURU,
AND IKUKO-SENSEI AND I HAVE CHOSEN YOU.
AND SOMEDAY THE BEST PAIR EVER WILL BE BORN!!
A PAIR MORE WONDERFUL THAT FONTEYN AND NUREYEV *

*MARGOT FONTEYN WAS AN ENGLISH BALLERINA AND RUDOLF NUREYEV WAS A RUSSIAN DANCER. THEIR CHEMISTRY TOGETHER WAS SO ELECTRIFYING THAT THEY DANCED TOGETHER TO SOLD OUT CROWDS INTO THEIR FIFTIES. WELL BEYOND THE AGE THAT MOST BALLET DANCERS RETIRE AT

IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
Me and Tatsu-kun?
PAT
YOU HAVE TO DECIDE IT YOURSELF.
IF YOU BELIEVE IN IT, YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE IT YOURSELF...
SPLASH!
DO WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU TO.
SUGIMOTO! YOU ARE STILL HERE?
SPRUCE

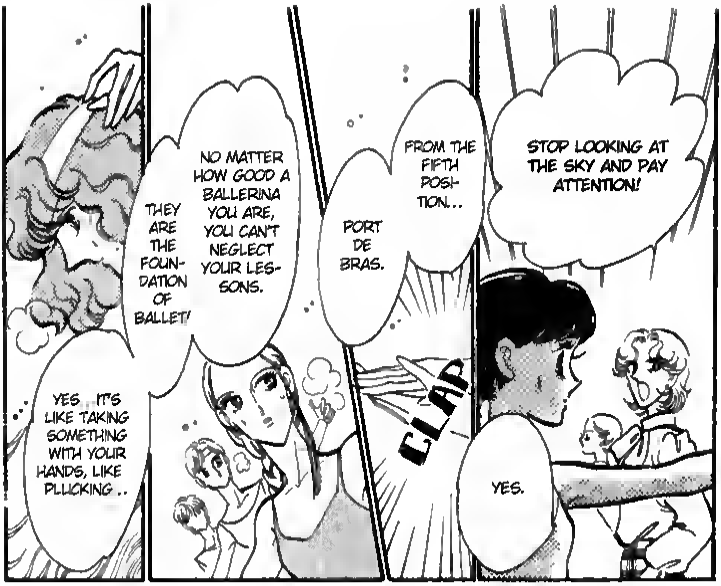
TATSUKU.
SEE YOU.
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T WALK YOU HOME
I NEED TO GO HOME TO DISCUSS AN IMPORTANT MATTER.
...
THE WATER FOUNTAIN IN THE COURT-YARD IS BEAUTIFUL.
SMILE

KEIMI, I HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO HAMBURG.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT..
Tatsu-kun...!

YES...
BUT YOU HAVE TO COME BACK, OKAY?
IF YOU STAY THERE TOO LONG, I...
ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE STRICTER THAN HERE IN JAPAN,
I THINK I CAN DO IT.
I HAVE TO DO IT.
I WILL TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAM, WHATEVER IT TAKES SO I CAN GO TO HAMBURG, TOO!!
I WILL GO TO YOU!
DON'T WORRY, I WILL COME BACK.
WHEN I COME BACK, WE'LL DANCE A PAS DE DEUX. .
I'M NO GOOD NOW, BUT WHEN I RETURN. .
I'LL BE A DANCER AT YOUR LEVEL.
BECAUSE YOU ARE HERE, KEIMI

YES?
TATSU-KUN!
DON'T FORGET, OKAY?
ONE DAY YOU WILL BE THE ONE WHO DANCES WITH ME...
Keimi...

I will be the one who takes your hand!!
Keimi, remember this!
ATTENTION PLEASE, JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 312 WILL DEPART AT 7:30 PM BY WAY OF ANCHORAGE.
ROAR
MORIKAWA-SAN!


STOP LOOKING AT THE SKY AND PAY ATTENTION!
FROM THE FIFTH POSI-TION...
PORT DE BRAS.
CLAP
YES.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD A BALLERINA YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T NEGLECT YOUR LES-SONS.
THEY ARE THE FOUN-DATION OF BALLET!
YES... IT'S LIKE TAKING SOMETHING WITH YOUR HANDS, LIKE PLUCKING..

Star dust girls,
JUMP
The future
Prima donnas.

PLUCK THE STARS, DONNA <END>

Yoshi wo Tsuna Donna

Volume 2 Chapter 6

Translated by Otohime
Proofread by Maris
Edited by Nikkou

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http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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